■ ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1

Pinoy film described by press as 'fresh, compelling to the end' up for US indie award

■ NEWS / A2

2 terrorists cut JI ties in Indonesia, establish base in Mindanao

■ ACROSS / A17

RP awarded by int'l group best place to invest in mining for '05

■ METRO / A23

Kidnap-for-ransom cases up ; Metro Manila tops list with 20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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GMA P1-M donation irks Rosales: I was not informed

By Christian V. Esguerra

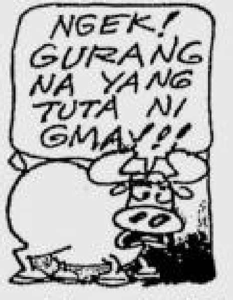
IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's generous donation was slipped right under the nose of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales.

Rosales yesterday denied knowing about

GMA P1M-DONATION/ A4

Garci like lapdog, bird flu carrier, say GMA opposition

By Fe Zamora and TJ Burgonio


NGEK! GURANG NA YANG TUTA NI GMA!!

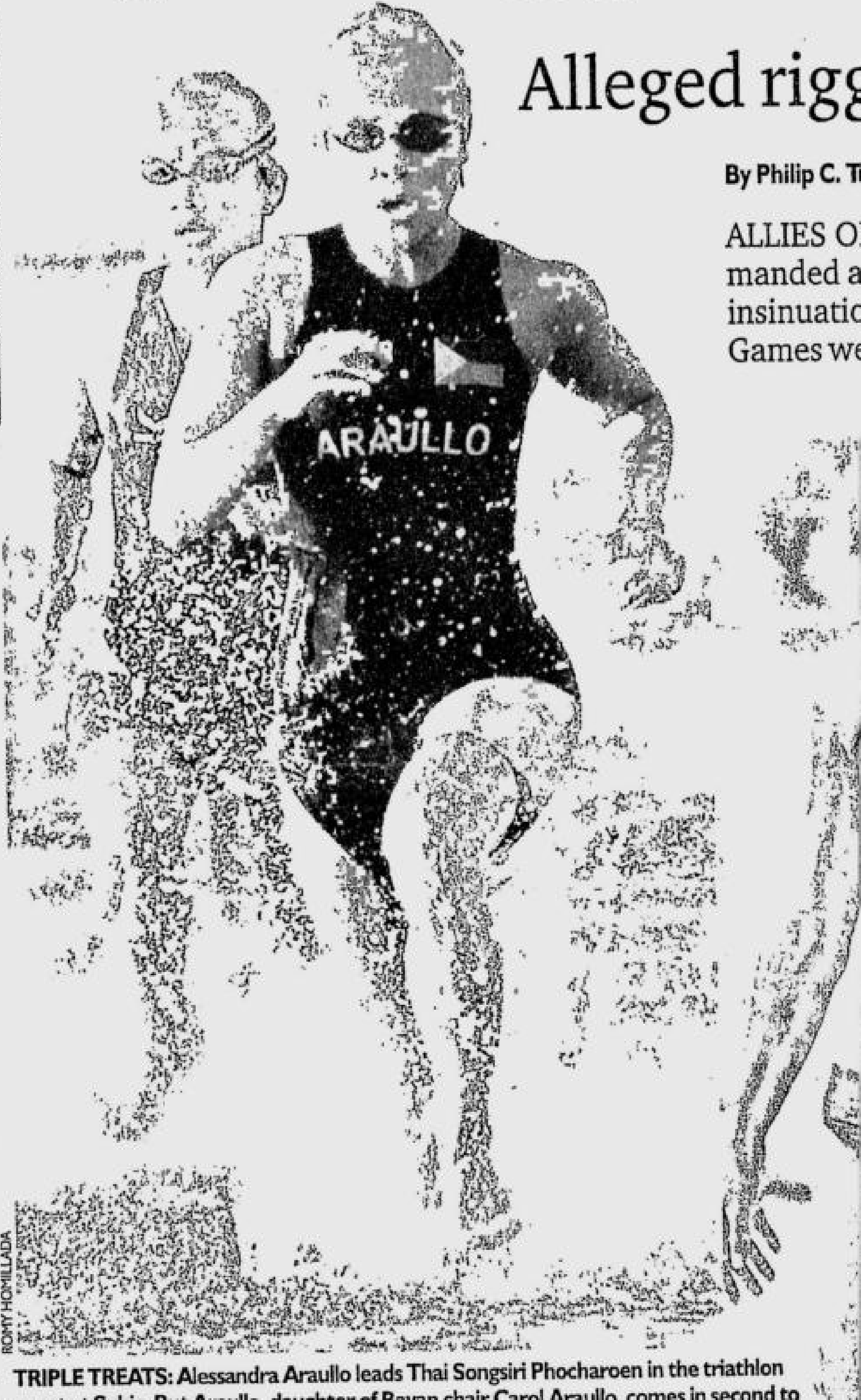
VIRGILIO GARCILLANO'S latest reincarnation is as a lapdog of the Arroyo administration—or at least according to the Black

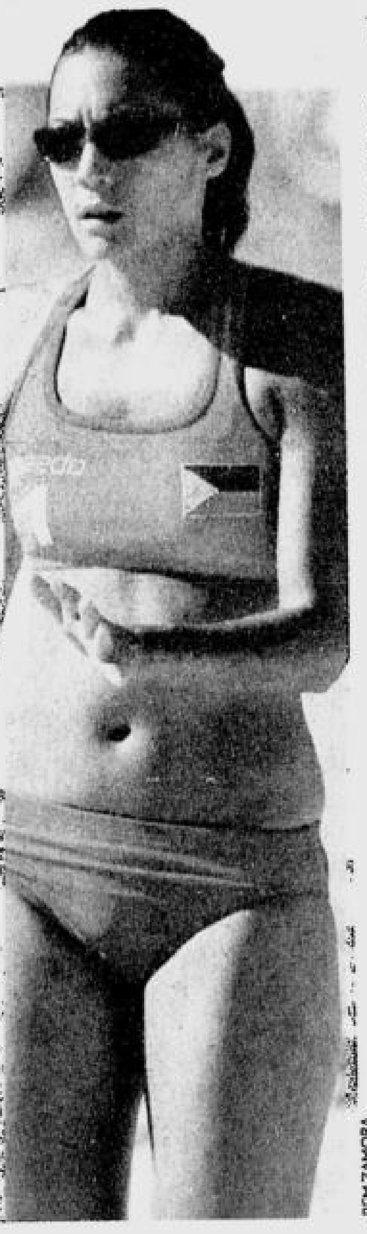
GARCI/ A4

GMA allies demand apology from Thais

Alleged rigging of SEAG to be probed

By Philip C. Tubeza, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio





TRIPLE TREATS: Alessandra Araullo leads Thai Songsiri Phocharoen in the triathlon event at Subic. But Araullo, daughter of Bayan chair Carol Araullo, comes in second to Kimberly Yap of Malaysia who wins the gold. (At right) Diane Pascua catches the eye of lensmen in beach volleyball competition at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City. ROMY HOMILLADA REM ZAMORA

ALLIES OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY DEmanded a public apology from the Thai prime minister, saying his insinuations the Philippines was rigging the Southeast Asian Games were meant to divert attention from corruption charges he was facing in Thailand.

Ms Arroyo herself was conciliatory. "I am concerned over the remarks of an ally and good friend," Ms Arroyo said. "I am directing the officials to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into this matter and submit an impartial report within 24 hours."

"The Philippines should file a diplomatic protest and demand a public apology from Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra for offending our national pride," said Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, reflecting a bipartisan sentiment in Congress.

"It is quite apparent that the prime minister is making a nasty attempt to make an international incident to stir up patriotic fury to divert Thai attention away from his own domestic woes, boost his political stock and fend off hostile local media at our expense," said Salceda.

Thai officials attending the games in the Philippines offered an apology yesterday, blaming a Bangkok newspaper for the furor.

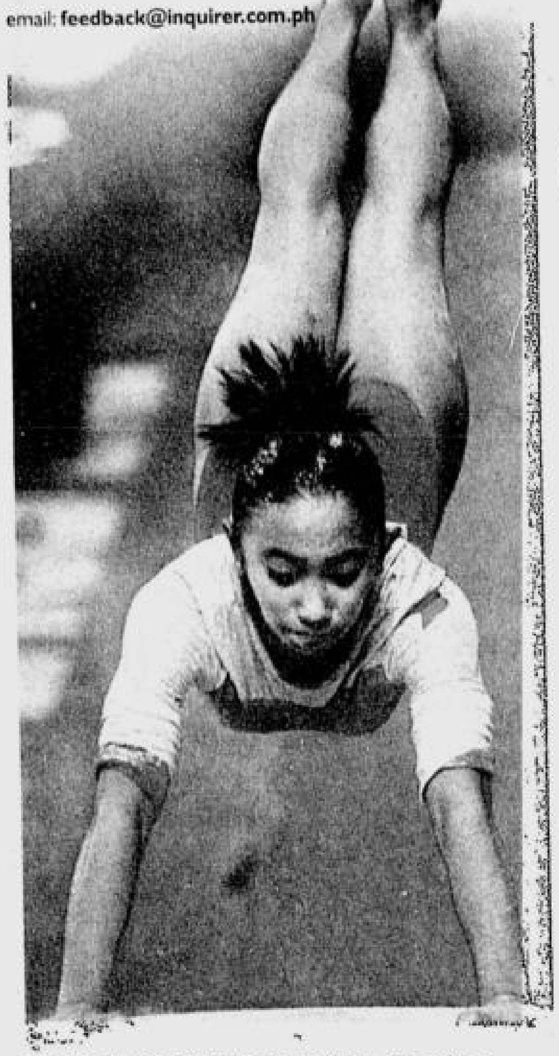
"The report was inappropriate and I feel sorry for this," said Chaipak Siriwat, vice president of the Thai Olympic Council. "On behalf of the Thailand Sports Council, I apologize for whatever inconvenience brought about by the senseless report," said Siriwat during the SEA Games Federation meeting in Manila.

He did not however deny or confirm the report. Thai Deputy Minister Suwat Liptapanlop was flying to the country on Saturday and was expected to make a clarification, said

GMA ALLIES/ A21

23rd SEA GAMES

Games sked today in Sports, Page A26



VAULTING AMBITION. Kristine Saguisag, daughter of former Sen. Rene Saguisag, bags the bronze in the women's vault in gymnastics competition on Thursday. RYAN LIM

GMA is usual suspect behind cheating raps

By Norman Bordadora

THE USUAL SUSPECT BEHIND THAI CHARGES of cheating in the Southeast Asian Games is President Macapagal-Arroyo—at least in the eyes of her opponents of all stripes.

For the Left, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is a renowned world leader.

Thaksin's suggestion that the Philippines might be rigging the SEA Games is seen as a result of the unresolved election fraud charges against the 58-year-old Filipino leader and the "Hello Garci" affair.

"I think the Garci scandal and the low credibility of the Arroyo administration have totally destroyed the image of our country before the international community," said Wilson Fortaleza, president of the left-wing Sanlakas.

"Thaksin is a respectable leader ... worldwide. For him to cast doubt on the Philippine government on a matter involving sports is very de-

GMA IS USUAL/ A21

Black & White tells Noli to quit; Drilon an option

By Fe Zamora and Cynthia D. Balana

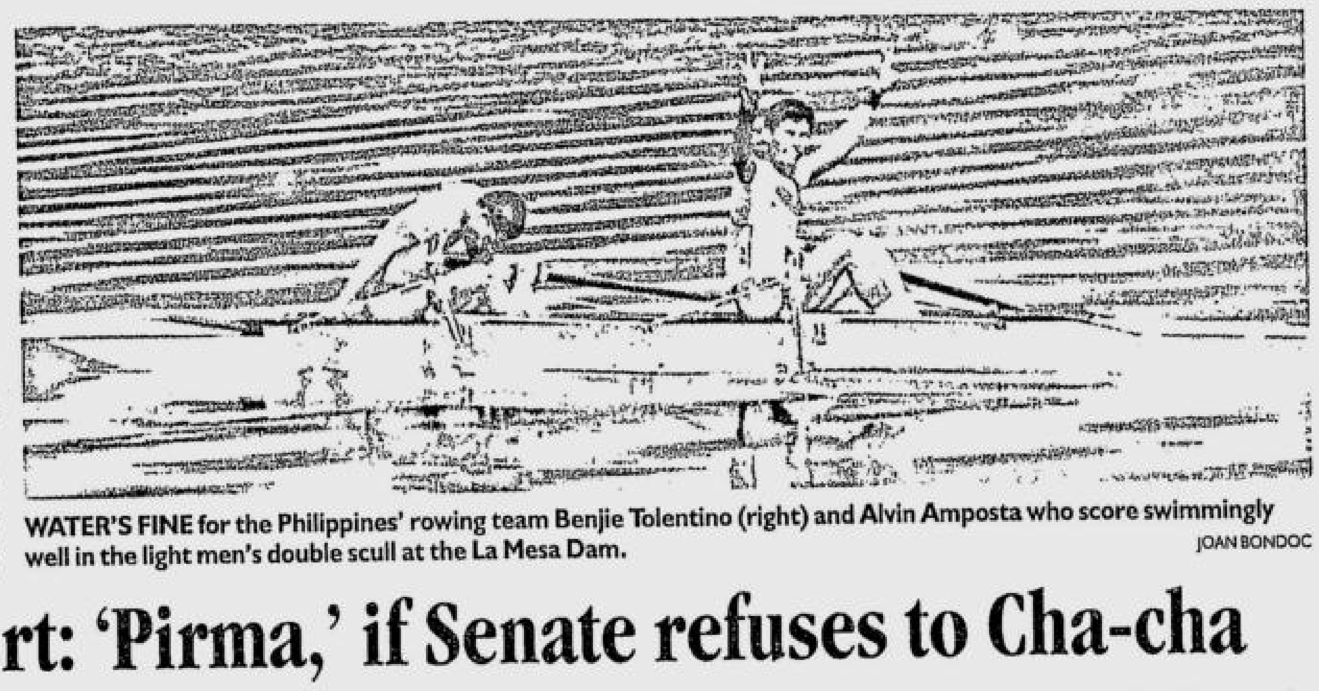
VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO IS NOW welcome to resign.

The multisectoral Black and White (B&W) Movement junked De Castro as the acceptable replacement of President Macapagal-Arroyo after the deadline it had imposed on him to join the opposition lapsed midnight of Wednesday.

Over 2,000 anti-Arroyo partisans gathered at the La Salle Green Hills gymnasium—among them former President Corazon

BLACK/ A4

Rowers keep RP medal drive afloat in SEA Games



WATER'S FINE for the Philippines' rowing team Benjie Tolentino (right) and Alvin Amposta who score swimmingly well in the light men's double scull at the La Mesa Dam. JOAN BONDOC

By Roy Luarca

FOR ROWER BENJIE TOLENTINO JR., shedding 10 kilos was worth its weight in gold.

The 6-foot-1 Tolentino, reaping the benefits of a yearlong reducing program, teamed up with Alvin Amposta in topping the lightweight men's double sculls yesterday and helping keep afloat Team Philippines' drive for the overall championship in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Tolentino, who matched diver Shiela Mae Perez's three-gold haul, and Amposta clocked 6 minutes and 50.16 seconds to beat the 6:54.18 effort of Thais Ruthtanaphol Thappibal and Anupong Thainjaw and give the Philippines the rowing title at the La Mesa Dam.

ROWERS/ A21

Palace last resort: 'Pirma,' if Senate refuses to Cha-cha

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

REMEMBER PIRMA, THE SIGNATURE campaign during the term of President Fidel Ramos aimed at amending the Constitution and extending his term?

The Arroyo administration may just resort to a Pirma-like campaign if the Senate refuses to Cha-cha.

An administration senator told the INQUIRER that President Macapagal-Arroyo manifested this plan to Sen. Ralph Recto at a recent dinner where they talked, among other issues, about the opposition of senators to Charter change (Cha-cha), which she and the House of Representatives are pushing.

"GMA [the President] told Ralph, 'Well, we can always use the people's initiative,'" said the senator, who asked not to be named.

The third mode of Charter change prescribed in the Constitution, a people's initiative, requires the signature of at least 10 percent of the registered voters in the country, with each congressional district having at least 3 percent of the voters to propose amendments.

The other modes of amending the Charter are the constitutional convention whose members are elected and the constituent assembly whose members are incumbent congressmen and senators.

"This (people's initiative) is the secret initiative of JDV (Speaker Jose de Venecia), their last resort if the Senate rejects the House resolution," the source said.

He was referring to House Concurrent Resolution No. 26 calling on the Senate and the House to convene as a constituent assembly to revise the Charter to pave the way for a federal-parliamentary system of government.

Recto denied the President told him that, but said "I know they are looking at that possibility."

But another administration senator confirmed that Malacañang and House leaders were preparing for the signature campaign as a "fallback position."

The senator, who also asked not to be

PALACE/ A20

US need for Filipino animators rising

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—DEMAND FOR ANIMATION done by Filipinos is expected to go up as more experts take notice of Filipino artists' talent, according to an official of the Animation Council of the Philippines (ACPI).

Ma. Lourdes Gopalan, head of the ACPI education committee, said the Philippine animation industry was expected to rake in

FOREIGN/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will be cloudy with rains. Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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2 Indon terrorists cut JI links

TWO JEMAAH ISLAMIYAH LEADERS HAVE CUT their ties with the Indonesian-based terrorist group and established a base in Mindanao to wage attacks in the Philippines and Indonesia, according to a captured Indonesian militant.

The Indonesian militants — Dulmatin, who goes by one name, and Umar Patek — have trained recruits and plotted attacks from their southern Philippine base, but their efforts have been hampered by several arrests and Army offensives, according to a report on the interrogation of Abdullah Sunata, an alleged rebel leader captured in Indonesia in June.

A copy of the confidential report on Sunata's interrogation in Indonesia was seen by the Associated Press on Thursday.

Dulmatin, an electronics specialist known for his bomb-making expertise, and Patek, who has focused on recruitment and training, are key suspects in the 2002 nightclub bombings that killed 202 people in Indonesia's Bali island. The attacks are blamed on Jemaah Islamiyah, which is linked to the al-Qaida international terror group.

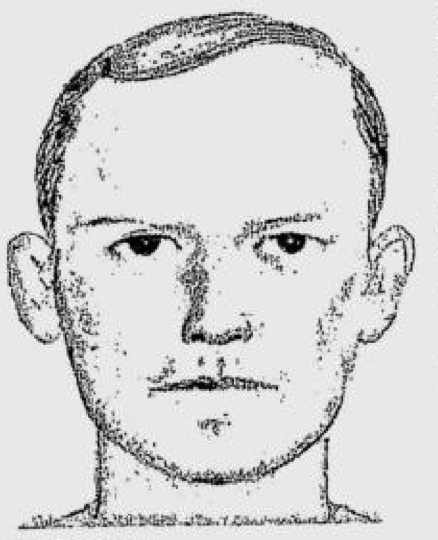
On the run

Authorities believe Dulmatin and Patek are still on the run in the south with members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

In Washington, the Bush administration on Wednesday moved to financially paralyze three suspected senior members of the Abu Sayyaf, a violent bandit group believed to be allied with both the al-Qaida and the Jemaah Islamiyah. It is on the US list of terrorist organizations.

The US Treasury Department said it has ordered US banks to freeze any assets they find in the United States belonging to Abu Sayyaf leaders Jainal Antel Sali Jr., Radulan Sahiron and Isnilon Hapilon and has forbidden Americans from doing business with the alleged militants.

The US is offering up to $200,000 for information leading to the capture of each of the three Abu Sayyaf leaders who are charged with the kidnapping and murder of several Americans in the south, the department said.



DULMATIN

In the case of Dulmatin and Patek, the US last October announced rewards of up to $10 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Dulmatin, and up to $1 million for the capture of Patek, citing their alleged role in the 2002 Bali attack and involvement in Jemaah Islamiyah.

Mindanao base

But Sunata said the two men told him in 2003 that they had cut their ties with Jemaah Islamiyah amid an intense manhunt for them by Indonesian police "because they believed that their continuous association with that group ... would just make it easier for the Indonesian authorities to track them down and arrest or kill them," the report said.

The two fled separately to the southern Philippines and established a base of operations in Mindanao with the help of a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front; which has been waging a Muslim separatist insurrection in the region for decades, according to the report.

Patek sought Sunata's help in sending Indonesian recruits for training and membership in their group in Mindanao, preferring Indonesians who fought in deadly clashes between Muslims and Christians between 1999 and 2001 in the eastern Indonesian provinces of Maluku and central Sulawesi, the report said.

Patek and Dulmatin were involved in those clashes, which killed more than 10,000 people, Sunata said.

Sunata sent 13 Indonesian recruits in five batches for training and membership in the group in Mindanao in 2003 and 2005, the report said.

Saudi financier

A Saudi Arabian donor identified as Abu Mohammad sent $11,500 to finance Patek's Mindanao operations, Sunata said, adding that he had arranged for couriers to deliver the money.

Sunata and Patek regularly communicated by e-mail and mobile phone text messages, discussing "how they could continue the jihad (holy war) in Indonesia and the Philippines," the report said.

Sporadic but intense military and police crackdowns, however, led to the arrests of several members of Patek's group and forced the militants to move to other Mindanao areas, the report said.

The report did not detail the attacks that were staged or planned by Patek's group, but said that two weeks before Sunata's arrest in June, he received an e-mail from Patek informing him of a planned attack on "military installations located along beach fronts." No other details were given.

The United States and Australia also are submitting the names of Sali, Sahiron and Hapilon to a United Nations committee, which will consider adding them to a terror list, US Treasury officials said.

"This action financially isolates senior members of (Abu Sayyaf) who have planned and carried out vicious attacks on Americans, Filipinos and innocent citizens from around the world," said Patrick O'Brien, assistant treasury secretary for terrorist financing and financial crime. *AP*

LEGARDA PROTEST

SC orders vote recount

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SUPREME COURT, ACTING AS THE Presidential Electoral Tribunal, has ordered a recount of votes involved in the election protest filed by former Sen. Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro starting Dec. 12.

In a resolution dated Nov. 22 but received by counsel of both parties yesterday, the PET also granted Legarda's motion to withdraw certain ballots from some towns in Lanao del Norte and Surigao del Sur from her complaint although election returns from 10 municipalities of Lanao del Sur remained under protest.

The PET ordered that the recount begin with ballots collected from 7,764 precincts in the six congressional districts of Cebu and directed Legarda to deposit P3,882,000 in cash. Under the law, candidates who protest election results and demand a vote recount are required to shoulder the cost, which in this case has been estimated at P500 per precinct.

In the protest she filed in July 2004, Legarda claimed there was massive fraud in the accomplishment of the certificates of canvass and election returns in favor of De Castro. The Vice President has denied he cheated in the elections.

The PET also renewed its March 31, 2005 order to the Commission on Elections to submit a certified true copy of the official list of precincts used in the May 2004 national elections. This time the court gave the poll body five days to submit the document.

The tribunal ordered that the recount and retabulation of ballots be held daily, except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

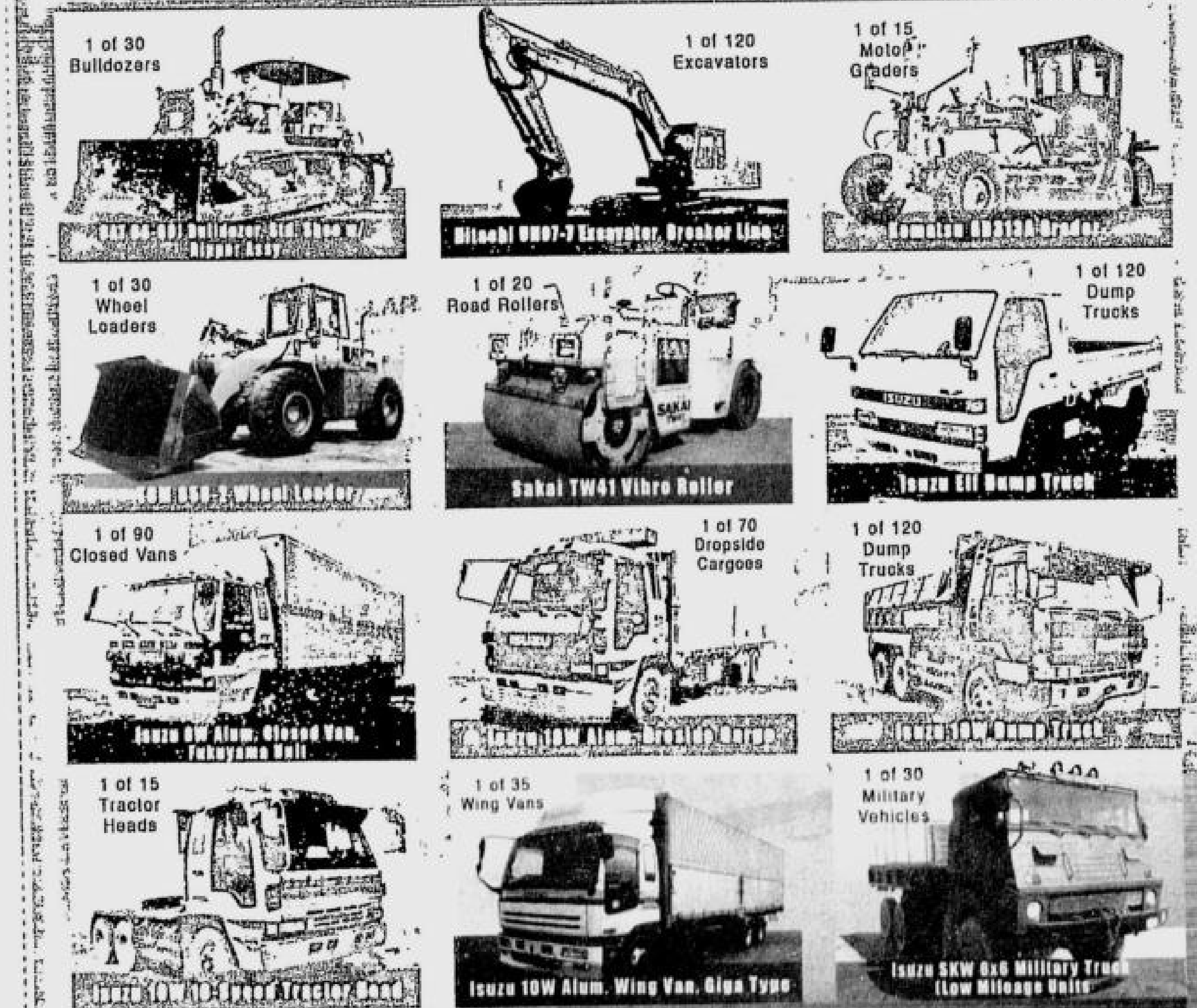
Both Legarda and De Castro were required to submit the names of their revisors and alternate revisors not later than Dec. 5.

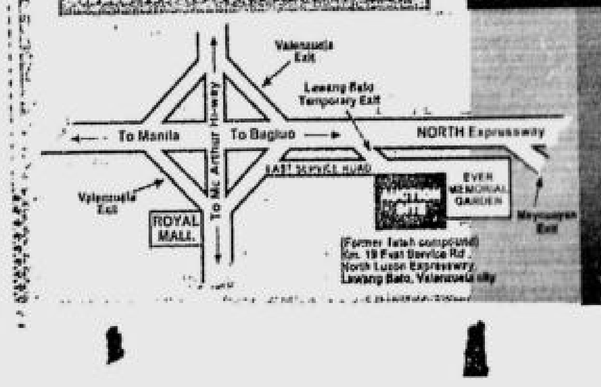
De Castro said he was pleased with the PET's decision to finally set the start of the recount in two weeks time.

"The Vice President has always maintained that the opening of the ballots will remove all doubts that he won the election fairly," De Castro's lawyer, Armando Marcelo, said in a statement.

Marcelo pointed out that the recount could have been done much earlier had Legarda acceded sooner to De Castro's motion to remove Lanao del norte and Surigao del sur from her protest.

"The ball is now in Legarda's hands," said Marcelo. "We hope that she will immediately pay the cash deposit so that there will be no reason for any further delay because of her alleged financial difficulties."





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Bar council drops interview of bets for SC chief

By Armand N. Nocum

THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL yesterday scrapped what would have been the first ever "public" interview of the three leading candidates for Supreme Court Chief Justice, in deference to the sentiments of 12 members of the high court.

"There are only three members of the court considered for nomination so it is pointless to interview them anymore," said Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as he emerged from a meeting that was called four hours before the scheduled interview that would have been opened to the public.

Davide, ex-officio chair of the JBC, called the meeting after 12 justices expressed their opposition to the interview to the JBC, a constitutional body that screens candidates for vacant judicial positions.

The justices pointed out that from the time the 1987 Constitution was adopted, the JBC never interviewed nominees who are already incumbent SC justices.

They also stressed that the Chief Justice was not the chief executive of the judiciary nor of the high court. Hence, if the JBC was interested in finding out how the nominees intended to manage or administer the judiciary, the exercise was pointless, the 12 justices said.

Instead of interviewing the nominees, they said the JBC should examine their judicial philosophy expressed in their written decisions.

The interview, if it had pushed through, would have been a first for candidates for the position of Chief Justice.

During yesterday's meeting, six members of the JBC panel voted to scrap the planned interview. Sen. Francisco Pangilinan voted to go through with it while Davide abstained.

The JBC's three final nominees as the successor to Davide, who is due to retire this month, are Senior Associate Justices Reynato Puno, Artemio Panganiban and Leonardo Quisumbing.

Of the three, only Quisumbing signed the letter of the 12 justices objecting to the interview.

In a statement released shortly after the meeting, the JBC said it would submit the names of the three nominees for Chief Justice to Malacañang "at the earliest opportunity."

Davide said the council decided to scrap the public interview "without looking into the merits of the substantial objections, only taking into account that there are three nominees."

Under the rules, the JBC screens the candidates to a vacant judicial position and sends to the President a short list consisting of at least three names from among whom the President may choose an appointee.

However, Davide said that yesterday's decision did not mean that future candidates for Chief Justice would not undergo the interview process.

"This is to be treated only for this particular situation and not to be taken as a precedent," he said.

DRUG DONATION. Carlos Ejercito, president and CEO of United Laboratories (right), explains to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Health Secretary Francisco Duque the details of Unilab's donation of P70 million worth of drugs to fight bird flu. LYN RILLON

Firm to donate P70M worth of anti-flu drugs

By Christine O. Avendaño

A LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY has agreed to manufacture and donate $1.25 million (P70 million) worth of an anti-flu medicine to the government to help Filipinos combat the dreaded avian flu virus should it enter the country and infect people.

In the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang, officials of the United Laboratories Inc. (Unilab) and the Department of Health signed an agreement under which the drug company would manufacture 500,000 oseltamivir capsules for distribution early next year to government health workers and poultry farm workers who could be exposed to the deadly H5N1 virus.

The amount of drugs Unilab has pledged to donate is enough for 50,000 people.

At a news conference later, Unilab president and chief executive officer Carlos Ejercito said he expected to be able to deliver the drugs by the end of February next year as the first batch of raw materials from its supplier in Switzerland was due to arrive in the country in January.

Ejercito and Health Secretary Francisco Duque said the main ingredient for the drug, the herb star anise, was in short supply in view of the high global demand triggered by the worldwide bird flu jitters.

"There is a global demand but there are not enough farms that produce it," Ejercito said, pointing out that the herb is produced in commercial quantities only in four provinces in China. In addition, he said, planting is seasonal.

On top of the 500,000 capsules from Unilab, the government was also counting on the Swiss drug company Roche to fill a government order for 100,000 Tamiflu (Roche's brand of oseltamivir) capsules. It expects to receive 10,000 more from the World Health Organization.

"The WHO has assured us that in case there is an outbreak of bird flu virus here, it will give us priority," Duque said.

The first shipment from Roche was expected to arrive this month, but the company "is having extreme difficulty honoring its commitment," Duque said, adding that the company has been swamped with orders from many countries. The order from Roche is good for 7,500 people.

Duque has warned that "it's just a matter of time" before the H5N1 strain hits the Philippines.

The disease has been ravaging poultry stocks across Asia since 2003 and has jumped to humans, killing at least 68, most in Vietnam and Thailand, according to the World Health Organization.

Authorities fear that the virus could mutate into a form that passes easily from person to person, sparking a global flu pandemic.

Asked why Unilab was making the donation, Ejercito replied: "This goes beyond profit. We think it's our responsibility to prepare for this, it's a global concern, a serious corporate concern that the country (might not) have the medicine when (the virus) strikes the country."

With a report from AP

Ethel Booba vexes Bunye

By Christine O. Avendaño

HE ALWAYS CAME PREPARED FOR HIS DAILY press briefings. But for a few minutes yesterday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was hardly the picture of preparedness when an unexpected guest showed up and fired a question from leftfield that left him flustered.

Starlet Ethel Booba, promoting her new television program, joined the Malacañang press corps for the day's briefing.

The sexy star, known for co-hosting the popular reality show "Extra Challenge" on GMA 7, stood up and declared: "I am here because you're my idol."

As the laughter died down, Bunye responded, "The feeling is mutual."

So far so good.

Then she asked Bunye what President Macapagal-Arroyo thought of the sector of society known as "jologs," colloquial for the masses. The entertainer was also alluding to "Jologs Guide," the name of a new show that she is slated to host soon.

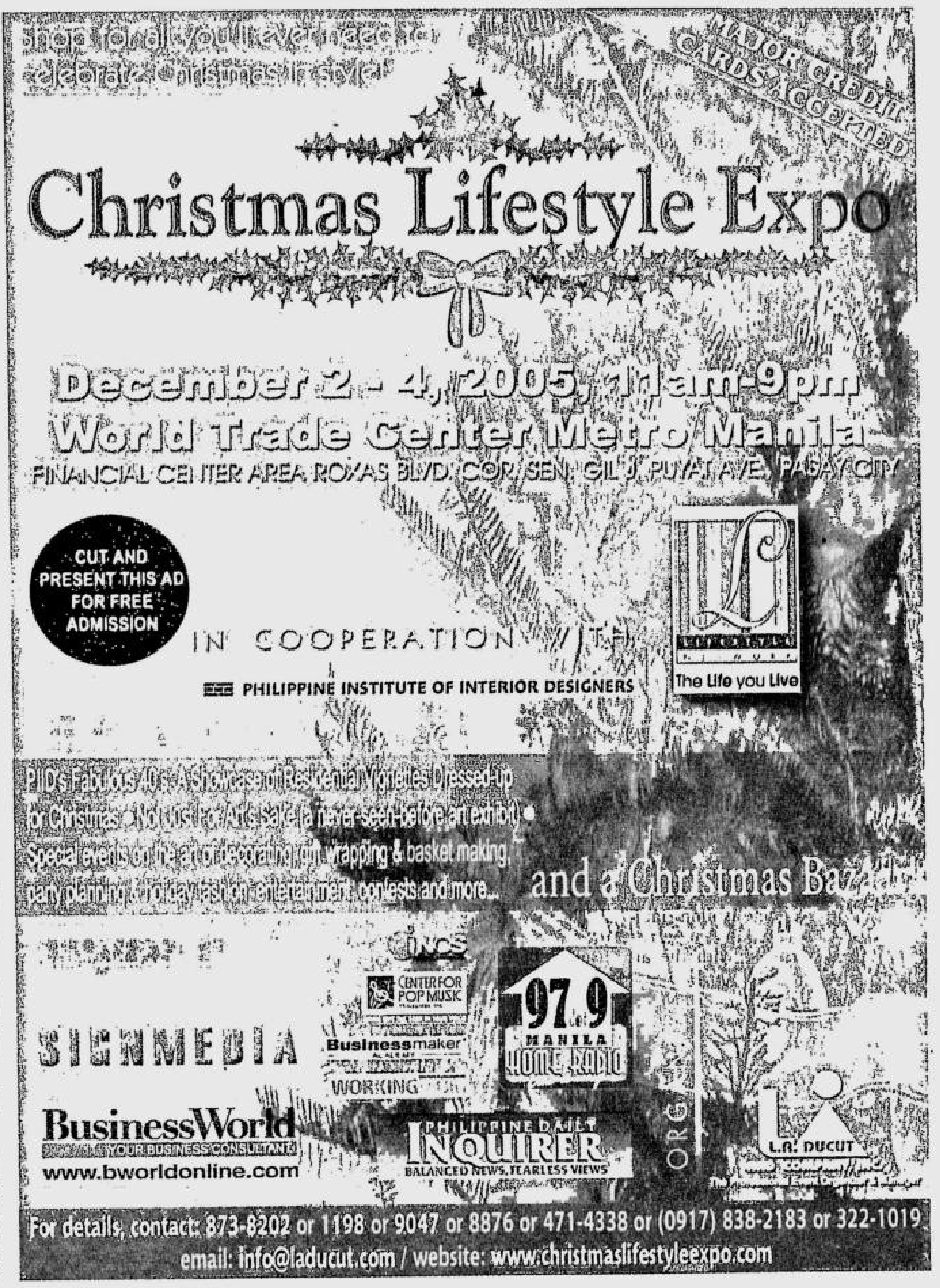
Startled by the question, Bunye declared a "one-minute recess" to consult an aide.

Back on the podium, the presidential spokesperson said he could only give his personal view because he had not consulted the President on the matter.

"*Siguro yun jologs ang ibig sabihin ay parang nahulog o natulog* (Perhaps it means somewhat like falling or falling asleep)," Bunye said, adding that the term would suit a Palace reporter who sometimes dozed off during his briefings. It was not clear from his response if his play with the Filipino words rhyming with "jologs" was actually a joke or he had no idea what the term meant.

Afterward, he and Booba had their picture taken but backed away when entertainer moved to kiss him.

"*Baka ma* Bayani Fernando *ako*," Bunye said, referring to the way the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair and his picture kissing sexy starlet Anna Leah Javier ended up on the front pages



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GMA P1-M donation irks Rosales: I was not informed

From page A1

the P1-million donation the President had made for his pet project "Pondo ng Pinoy."

"I was not informed of this donation last August," he told Fr. Anton Pascual in a letter he wrote as soon as he read the INQUIRER story about the contribution.

Pascual got the check issued by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office on Aug. 4 in his capacity as executive director of the Pondo ng Pinoy Community Foundation.

The INQUIRER learned that Ms Arroyo had wanted to personally hand over the check to Rosales that day. But the prelate left the relaunching of Radio Veritas in Makati as soon as he delivered the welcome remarks.

Critics questioned the timing of the donation and the President's intentions. It came at a time when Ms Arroyo was quietly courting the support of Roman Catholic bishops who, less than a month before, refused to join the clamor for her resignation.

Charm offensive

The decision, contained in a lengthy pastoral statement, apparently helped Ms Arroyo keep her post.

Less than two weeks after making the Pondo ng Pinoy donation, Ms Arroyo's charm offensive brought her in an unannounced visit to Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, then the newly elected president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Having denied knowledge of the presidential contribution, Rosales was mum over what proponents of Pondo ng Pinoy would do with the money.

"It's really up to the archbishop," Peachy Yamsuan, communications director of the Archdiocese of Manila, told the INQUIRER.

Neither was there any straight reply over the possibility that the President, still facing a political crisis, was simply trying to court Rosales' much-needed support through Pondo ng Pinoy.

Pondo ng Pinoy encourages both rich and poor to set aside "crumbs" or as low as 25 centavos daily, as a concrete way of caring for the needy. Donations are kept in a fund primarily used to help the poor start a livelihood.

Purists

Rosales sniped at the so-called "purists" apparently belonging to the Roman Catholic Church who questioned the impropriety of the donation.

"Judgment is left to [the] God of mercy," he said in his letter to Pascual, a reproduction of which was e-mailed to the INQUIRER.

Yamsuan said Rosales was "irked" over how the donation was reported in the media.

"Love and compassion, of which we are all short of, must motivate our action whether we write, read, give, share or receive," the prelate said in his letter.

In an e-mail to the INQUIRER, Yamsuan, quoting Pascual, said the donation did not come from the President. It was purportedly handed over to Pascual by a representative of the PCSO, the government agency running the lucrative lottery business.

Foreign donation

Pascual also denied that Pondo ng Pinoy expanded mainly because of the Arroyo donation.

About a week before the project's first anniversary on June 11, it had P18,695,316. Pondo ng Pinoy is now worth P53 million, Pascual said Wednesday.

Contributions steadily poured. A foreign donation worth at least P13 million was made in September.

The Archdiocese of Manila contributed about P14 million; other dioceses, some P5 million; and the Assisi Foundation, P14 million. Corporate donations amounted to P6 million.

The e-mail also pointed out that the INQUIRER was a corporate partner of the archdiocese's "Hapag-Asa" feeding program.

Garci like lapdog, bird flu carrier, say ...

From page A1

and White Movement's take on the former election official.

In an MTV shown close to midnight on Wednesday at the La Salle Green Hills gymnasium, Garcillano was among those touted to be the *tuta*—lapdogs—of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

And as though to indicate his top ranking, his photograph was saved for last in the MTV played to the tune of the familiar ditty, "Doggie in the Window."

The enthusiastic crowd shouted the names as the pictures were flashed on the video wall: "It's JPE (Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile)! (Environment Secretary) Mike Defensor! (Justice Secretary Raul) Gonzalez! (Press Secretary Ignacio) Bunye! (Sen.) Miriam (Defensor-Santiago)!"

And the finale? A photo of the round-faced Garcillano, his head wrapped in an Arab *kaffiyeh*, as shown on TV last Sunday.

"Garci! *Tuta!* Arf! Arf!" the crowd yelled, laughing and applauding.

Apart from lapdog, Garcillano was also portrayed as a bird flu carrier by Edong del Rosario, a physician and a regular presence at B&W Movement rallies.

Del Rosario paraded around the gymnasium, displaying a poster bearing the message "Protect the Philippines from bird flu. Quarantine Garci."

1st media appearance

It was Garcillano's first appearance in the media since he vanished from public view in June.

He went missing two weeks after the broadcast of the "Hello Garci" tapes, which called into question the validity of Ms Arroyo's electoral mandate and triggered the most serious political crisis in her administration.

Garcillano "surfaced" in Mindanao on Nov. 27, denying that there was poll fraud in 2004 and insisting that the "Hello Garci" tapes were spurious.

His coming out has revived even greater public interest in him despite Malacañang's earlier pronouncement that the issue of the wiretapped phone conversations between him and Ms Arroyo was "a closed book."

Bargain with the devil

But more than quarantine, Senator Santiago is proposing that Congress grant Garcillano immunity from all suits.

"I think the best way to solve this mess is to offer him, in effect, the status of a state witness. To offer him, in other words, immunity from prosecution for what he says. That way, we can make sure that he will be telling us the whole truth," Santiago said yesterday at a briefing.

"If he's the sole source of the truth, we have to strike a bargain with the devil," she added.

Commenting on the proposal, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he would rather wait for the former official of the Commission on Elections to tell "the whole truth, which the whole country already knows," before supporting such a move.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in a text message: "If carefully done so that we aren't pulled into a trap, the idea should be studied by the Senate leadership."

Half the truth

Unless he is exempted from suit, Garcillano would tend to "protect himself" and tell "only half the truth" when he testifies next week at the resumption of the House inquiry into the wiretapping scandal, Santiago said.

"As it stands now, it seems as if he's guilty of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. And he faces, therefore, criminal prosecution and the possible penalty of imprisonment and disqualification from public office," she said.

She also said she saw no need to "punish" the man.

Garcillano's lawyer, Eddie Tamondong, had said he would show up at the House inquiry on Dec. 7.

In a letter sent yesterday to Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, Tamondong requested help in "securing the safety of [Garcillano] and his wife commencing on the morning of Dec. 4 somewhere in Central Mindanao."

He said he would relay Garcillano's specific location once "final arrangements" had been made.

The committees on public information, public order and safety, national defense and security, information and communications technology, and suffrage and electoral reforms have decided to lift the arrest warrant on Garcillano and send an invitation to him instead.

Who? How many times?

Santiago said Congress should get Garcillano to testify if only to expose the politicians who called him during the election period.

She pointed out: "We'll know who called him. How many times did they call? What were they asking for? To protect their votes? Do you mean to say that a national candidate, such as a candidate for president or for senator, will spend valuable time during the campaign, which is extremely limited, by calling every Comelec commissioner [to say], 'Can you please protect my vote?'

"In law, you presume that the official duty will be regularly performed, so that it can't be possible that the conversation was confined only to the protection of votes. You've got to be living in another planet to believe that kind of contention. They were asking for him to change their votes. In other words, to pad their votes.

"What were they doing then if they were not talking election fraud? Dealing in telephone sex? That's the only alternative." Garcillano had earlier claimed that then senatorial candidates Manuel Roxas II and Jamby Madrigal, among others, had called him during the elections.

But they denied doing so.

AFP 'Garci' report out on Dec. 15

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE REPORT ON THE ARMED Forces' supposed involvement in the "Hello Garci" scandal has been completed, Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga said yesterday.

Mayuga, who led the fact-finding body, said all they needed now were the signatures of the 35 officers interviewed in the course of the three-month probe so they could formally submit their report to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

He said the report would be submitted on Dec. 15 regardless of whether he would be named Navy chief or not.

The 35 officers are in Mindanao, Mayuga said in a phone interview. He denied that the submission of the report had been affected by his being in contention for the Navy's top post.

Mayuga, the AFP inspector general, was tight-lipped about the panel's findings. He said the report had to be read first by Senga, who would then decide if it should be made public.

But at the start of the probe, Mayuga promised to make the findings public.

Four generals were mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes as involved in the alleged conspiracy to rig the 2004 election for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Senga's predecessor, retired Gen. Efren Abu, had initially described the polls as clean.

Abu only agreed to form a fact-finding body in July, after a number of officers threatened to go on mass leave or resign en masse unless the military leadership investigated the generals implicated in the scandal.

The buzz was strong yesterday that Mayuga would replace Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, the Navy flag officer in command.

Black & White tells Noli to quit; Drilon an option

From page A1

Aquino, Sen. Serge Osmeña, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva and resigned Cabinet officials Corazon Soliman, Florencio Abad, Teresita Deles and Imelda Nicolas—waited in vain for a word from De Castro.

At 12:12 a.m. yesterday, a black cloth was draped over the poster bearing De Castro's picture and the words "Kabayang Noli, Mabuhay Ka."

What remained in public view was a similarly sized poster bearing the pictures of Ms Arroyo and De Castro and the words "Noli, Magsama Kayo ni Gloria. Resign!"

"We wanted to go through a constitutional process," said Abad, the former education secretary. "We have already done everything. Now nobody can say we did not try."

'Give me a reason'

De Castro, however, was unimpressed.

"Is there any good and legal reason that they can give me right now why I should join them?" he told the INQUIRER.

"I was elected by the people, and my mandate is still up to 2010. These people who have been giving me deadlines to leave the President have no mandate at all. Some of them were just appointed. I was elected," he said.

De Castro appeared annoyed at the Nov. 30 deadline imposed on him by the Black and White Movement.

"While I respect the political views of these groups, I don't see any reason why I should heed their advice," he said, adding:

"If I violate a law, I will voluntarily resign. They shouldn't try to scare me that they would file all sorts of charges just because I don't want to join them. I don't think that's right."

Grateful Palace

Malacañang was grateful for De Castro's stance.

"Our Vice President believes that the direction that our country is [taking] under the President is the right one, and he's ready to support this administration," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

"And we thank the Vice President for that, for his steadfastness to service and his steadfastness in supporting the President's 10-point program," Bunye said.

Gabriel Claudio, the President's political adviser, heaped praise on De Castro, calling him a "statesman" and a "principled adherent of the constitutional process."

In a text message, Claudio said De Castro rejected the ultimatum of the Black and White Movement "even in the face of pressure, harassment or seduction from the opposition and other detractors of government."

"He will be looked up to by our people with even greater admiration and affection," Claudio said.

As for the Black and White Movement, Claudio said it appeared to be "setting a new record of arrogance, aggression and presumptuousness in carrying out [its] political agenda."

Bunye added that the alliance's efforts to oust Ms Arroyo were going nowhere partly because of the strong economy.

"These groups were forecasting that we would suffer the ill effects of the expanded value-added tax, but this did not take place," Bunye said.

"On the contrary, the E-VAT worked toward uplifting the economy and strengthening the peso and stock market. I think things are going for us and going against the opposition," he said.

3rd option

On Oct. 22, the Black and White Movement reached a consensus to support De Castro as the next president, provided he abandoned Ms Arroyo.

On Oct. 25, the alliance sent De Castro a letter asking him to abandon Ms Arroyo and lead a new, reform-oriented government.

"We talked to people close to him. We tried to get an appointment, but we were never granted the request," Abad said.

The alliance's call for Ms Arroyo and De Castro to resign could mean that it is shifting to its third option, which is to ask Senate President Franklin Drilon to call for a "snap" election. But this can only be done if both the President and the Vice President resign or are deposed.

In an interview early Wednesday night, former President Aquino said a special election would be necessary as soon as the truth about the May 2004 election was ascertained.

"Who has the right to be president?" Aquino said in Filipino. "If it is really she, then she it is. If not, perhaps we should have an election that the citizenry can believe in."

Waiting for 5 hours

Waiting for De Castro to make up his mind took up a good five hours of music, dance, politics and prayers.

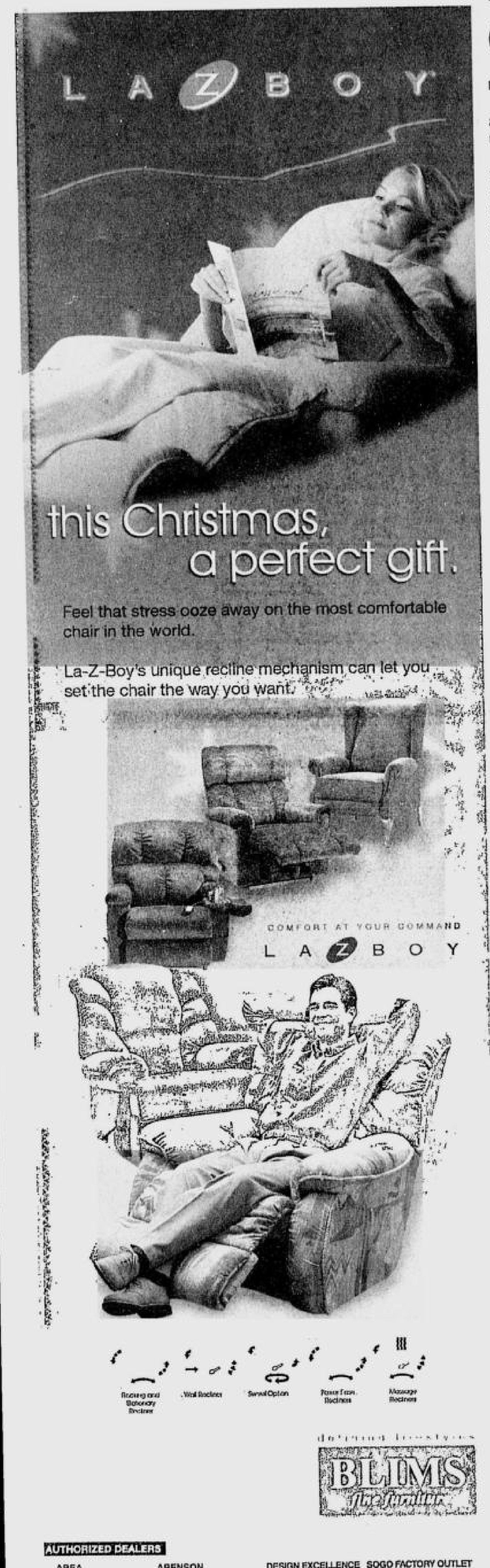
Addressing the Vice President, Black and White Movement lead convenor Vicente Romano III announced at around 10 p.m.: "If you have given up on us, we have not given up on you."

Bishop Dan Balais asked the heavens to "bless our leaders so this nation may live up to its name as the only Christian nation in Asia."

Artist Edru Abraham of Kontragapi led the audience in chanting "*kalayaan, katarungan sa payapang daigdig* (freedom and justice in a peaceful world)."

Singer Cynthia Alexander charmed her listeners with "Paikot-ikot," her take on the country's seemingly endless problems.

De Castro said he was willing to meet all kinds of deadlines as long as these would benefit the country and its people. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*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Cavite scribe's slay solved–PNP

By Luige A. del Puerto, *in Manila*
and Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF Director General Arturo Lomibao yesterday announced that the slaying of columnist Robert "Robby" Ramos has been "solved" after the suspects in the killing were identified and charged in court.

The Southern Luzon Police identified the suspects as Buboy and Jalal Saidali.

Murder charges were filed on Wednesday against the two brothers before the office of Laguna provincial prosecutor George Dee in Sta. Cruz town.

Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon police director, said the Saidali brothers were hawkers of pirated compact discs who owned two stalls at Pinky's Market in Barangay Banlic, Cabuyao, Laguna.

Verzosa said they have launched a manhunt for the suspects who were both from Marawi City.

Ramos, 39, a columnist of the Cavite-based weekly Katapat News, was gunned down on Nov. 20 by assailants armed with a .38-cal. revolver. He was the second journalist killed in less than three days and the ninth this year.

Task Force Ramos head Supt. Gil Blando Lebin said the killing appeared to be an "offshoot of a raid by the Optical Media Board on Nov. 17, when P4 million worth of CDs/VCDs/DVDs were seized from vendors, (including) the wares of the suspects."

"The victim was suspected (to be) the tipster. As an act of retaliation, media man Roberto Ramos was wasted," he said in a statement.

Quoting a witness, the police said the Saidali brothers allegedly confronted Ramos after the raid.

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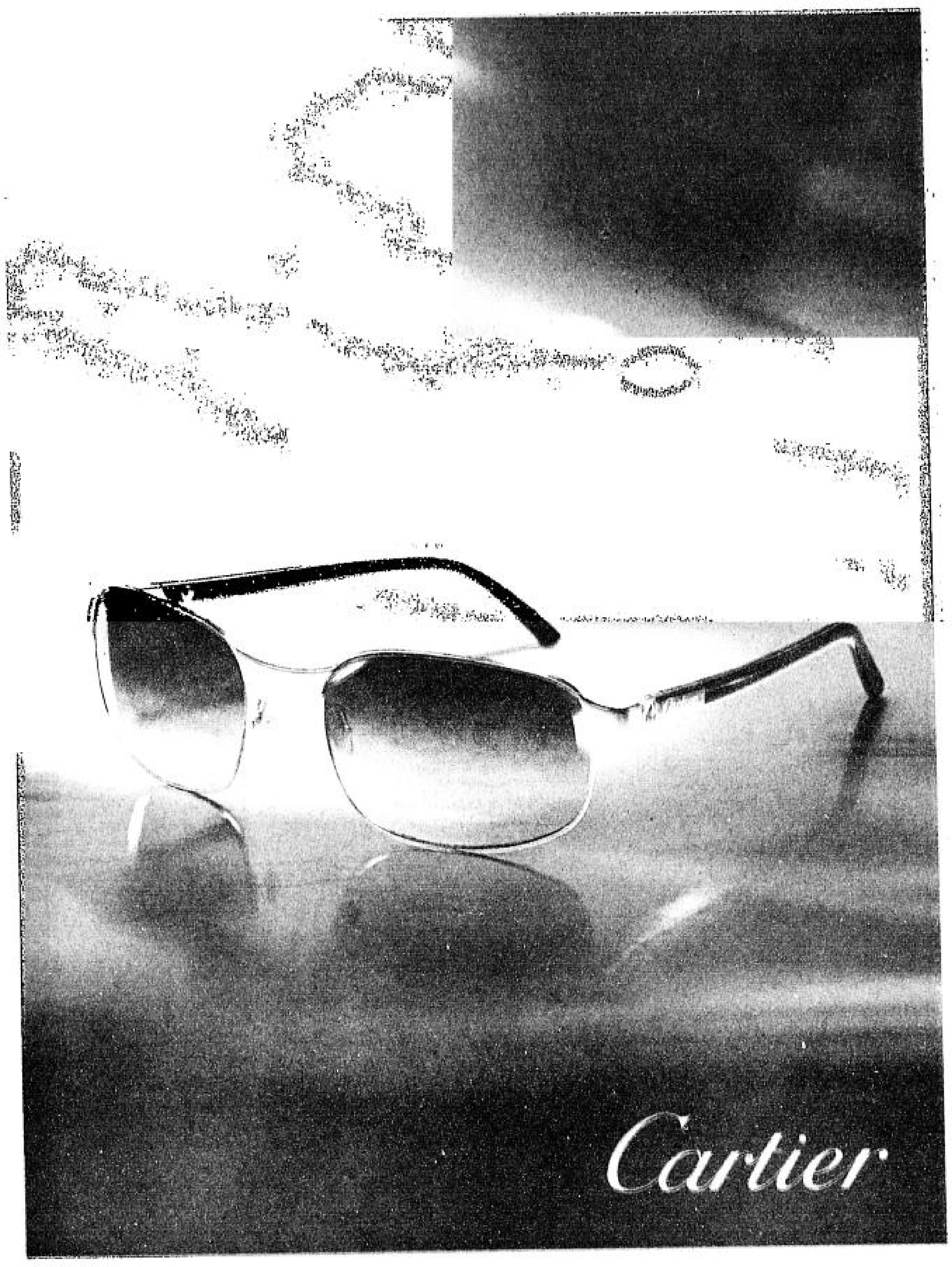

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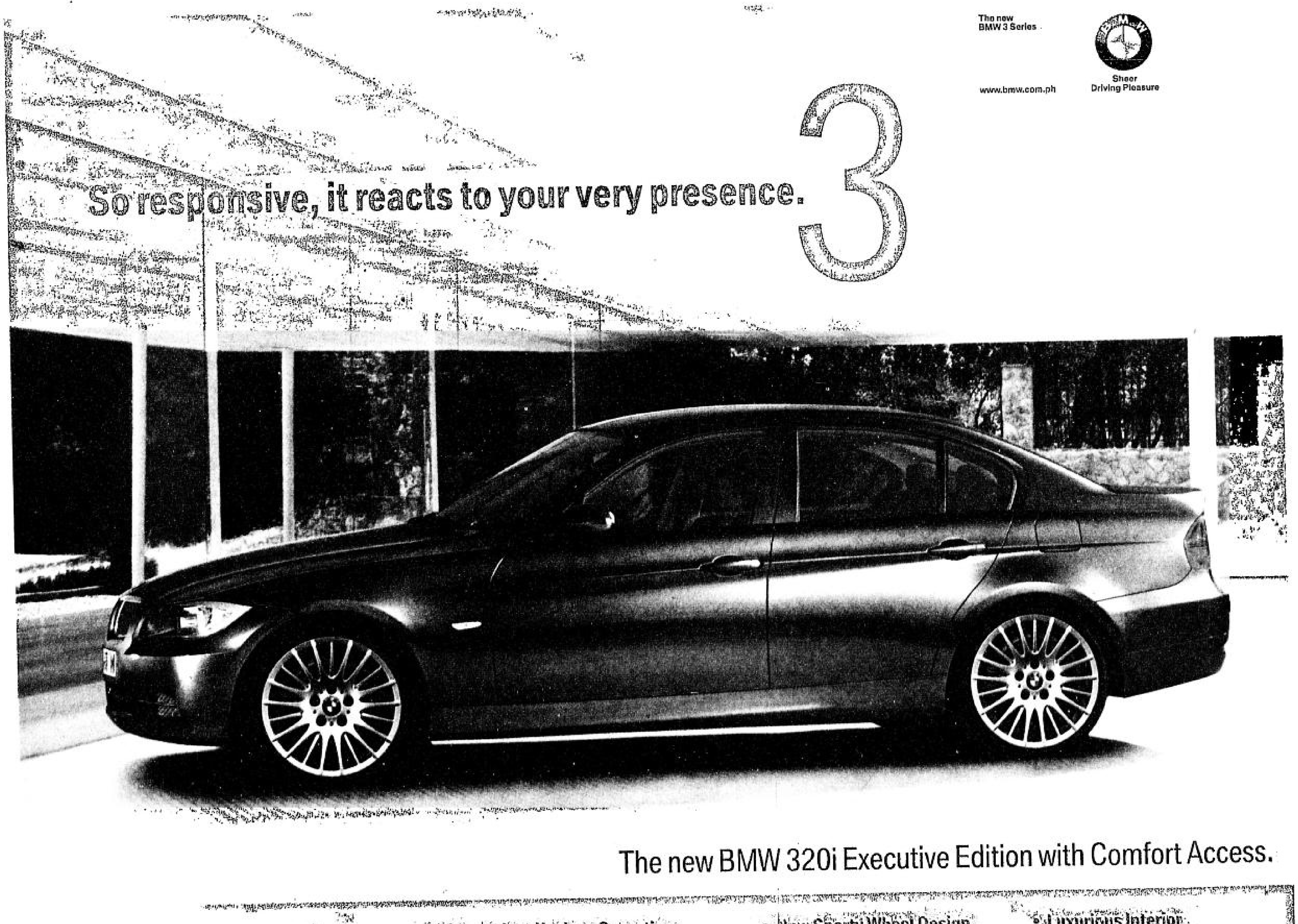

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Children's Hour turns 5

ON DEC. 7, CHILDREN'S HOUR Philippines Inc., together with the Makati Business Club and renowned restaurateur Billy King, will hold its annual benefit lunch dubbed as "Five Years of Giving Hope" at the NBC Tent, in Fort Bonifacio.

The event will gather all individual and corporate donors of Children's Hour, as well as representatives and children from some partner organizations. An exhibit showcasing projects that were successfully carried out will be presented.

Performances from the internationally acclaimed University of Santo Tomas Singers and the children of the Quezon City Performing arts will be featured. Ms Precious Lara Quigaman, Miss International 2005, will also be gracing the event.

Tickets sell at P1,000 each.

Displaced 'jueteng' workers potential terrorists–Hagedorn

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-JUETENG CZAR has warned that the more than 200,000 people displaced by the government's intensified campaign against "jueteng" are "potential terrorists, drug pushers and petty criminals."

Thus, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn said "there is an urgent need to put in place temporary if not permanent solutions to the problem."

"The anti-jueteng task force has recommended, among others, skills training programs for ex-jueteng workers. Providing the thousands of ex-jueteng workers jobs won't be easy," Hagedorn told the INQUIRER.

He warned that jueteng will be back if the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and other government agencies tasked with providing skills training and job opportunities for the displaced 200,000 jueteng workers do not do anything soon.

Replacement

Malacañang earlier approved the anti-jueteng task force's recommendation to replace the illegal numbers game with any "tried and tested" game of chance like the Small Town Lottery (or STL) and EZ 2, both of which have distinct similarities with jueteng.

Hagedorn considers STL the "best legal substitute" for jueteng.

According to the anti-jueteng czar, President Macapagal-Arroyo "has nothing against the revival of STL. Same with existing games being operated by the PCSO."

"The ball is now on the PCSO's court. The President has directed the PCSO to decide on the best replacement for jueteng. The PCSO, I was told, is looking into all the legalities and preparing all the guidelines," he said.

But Hagedorn seems unhappy with the way PCSO is acting on the President's directives. "Things seem to be moving at a snail's pace," he said.

During a recent meeting with top PCSO officials, Hagedorn asserted STL should be revived.

"In my report to the President, I said it's going to be the same STL minus the game's imperfections," Hagedorn said. "She has nothing against the revival of STL, but she's leaving it up to the PCSO to decide."

The revival of STL was one of five major recommendations Hagedorn made to Ms Arroyo in September.

Launched in 1987 by the PCSO during the Aquino administration, STL was instead used as a front by jueteng operators and corrupt government and law enforcement officials. It ran until September 1990.

'Guerrilla- type jueteng'

A House inquiry in the early 1990s showed that due to lax STL monitoring, jueteng flourished because franchises for the legal numbers game were awarded to the same people behind jueteng.

In an exclusive interview, Hagedorn also disclosed that "guerrilla-type" jueteng is back in at least five Luzon provinces, including Quezon, Laguna, Batangas, Nueva Vizcaya and one in Bicol.

All five provinces were "among Luzon's jueteng hotspots (before the anti-jueteng drive's Sept. 15 deadline)," Hagedorn noted.

He emphasized "it's not organized jueteng that's back; it's the guerrilla type," adding that this was the longest time that organized jueteng was stopped.

A little over 4 million Luzon folk played the illegal numbers game at any given time, according to the anti-jueteng czar.

Last May, Ms Arroyo declared that she would spare no one in her all-out war on illegal numbers games.

Resolution

She called for stricter enforcement of the anti-gambling law, Republic Act No. 9287, to stamp out all games of chance, specifically jueteng, masiao and "last two digits," which are popular among the poor.

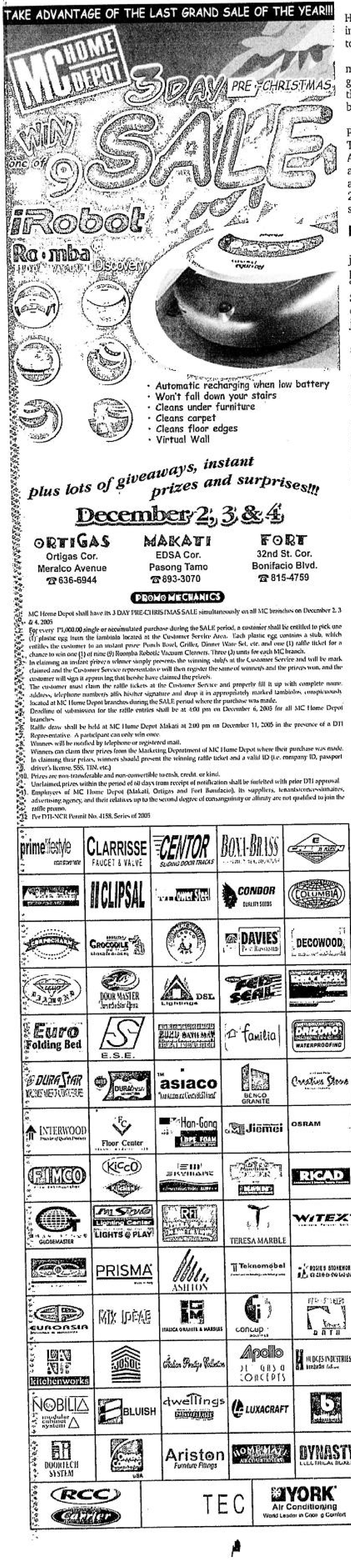
In August, more than 300 town mayors signed a resolution, pledging to "eradicate and put to a complete halt the operation of jueteng" in their respective areas.

Among the signatories of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines resolution were LMP Isabela chapter president Mayor Napoleon Dy, Pangasinan chapter president Mayor Ramon Guico Jr. and Pampanga chapter president Mayor Dennis Pineda, son of Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, said to be the undisputed jueteng lord in Central Luzon.

UP Law alumni tee off for charity

TODAY, THE CLASSES OF 1977 AND 1978 of the UP College of Law in coordination with the UP Law Alumni Association Inc. will hold the "UP Law Golf Club Founders Tournament" at the greens of the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club in Quezon City. The golf tourney is a fund-raising charity event for the benefit of the children of Payatas, Filipino soldiers and their families, and teachers.

The children of Payatas will be the first to benefit from the proceeds of the golf tourney through the Payatas Feeding Project. The feeding project is part of the regular Community Outreach Program of the Class of 1978 that aims to improve the health and nutrition of poor families from depressed urban areas.



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Bunye clueless on job fair fees

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IS THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY making a killing in carrying out President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to find jobs for millions of jobless Filipinos?

This question was raised after the OPS admitted having collected P60,000 each from companies and agencies participating in its quarterly jobs fair held in the open in an asphalt road inside the Malacañang complex.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was caught off guard when he was asked at a press briefing why his office was charging fees for what was supposed to be a public service and how the revenues were being spent.

"There is no money going to me. I don't know the details, ask Undersecretary (Robert) Rivera," said Bunye as he announced plans to hold the fourth and biggest jobs fair in Malacañang this weekend, from Dec. 3 to 4.

Rivera, a relative of Bunye, explained that the P60,000 fee for the participants was supposed to cover all expenses in the two-day event such as promotion, rentals of booth and tents, and food.

"Actually, the fee for each booth is only P30,000 each but we ask each of the private companies to subsidize the participation of one government agency," he said.

Rivera handles the negotiations with the event participants with the help of an aide, Emerito Magdangal, who gained notoriety for publicly trashing a subpoena for President Macapagal-Arroyo to appear in the so-called people's court which is trying her for various alleged crimes.

Interworld Communications, headed by Nathan Zulueta, Rivera's friend from their "showbiz" days, was contracted by the OPS to set up the job fair.

Zulueta claimed his company was handling the marketing and implementation "T.Y.," or for free.

"The participation fee is just enough to cover the expenses of the event," Zulueta said in a phone interview.

He said the tent and booth rentals alone came up to P200,000. (Rivera, however, cited a smaller figure of P113,000.)

But the OPS has also solicited sponsorships from government "cash cows" like the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Management Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines and Pag-Ibig Fund.

Spiritual exercises fair tomorrow in UP

SEEKERS MAY FIND ANSWERS TO THE questions of where we come from, who we are and where we are going, according to organizers of the first-ever, all-day Spiritual Exercises Fair.

The fair, dubbed "Enter the Temple Within," will be held at the Balay Kalinaw at the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City on Dec. 4 under the aegis of the Eckankar Society of the Philippines.

It hopes to provide answers to the questions posed by the French post-Impressionist painter Paul Gauguin—and which made up the title of one of his major works—toward the end of his self-exile in Tahiti.

Frustrated by the hypocrisy and artificiality of European society during the industrial revolution, Gauguin was captivated by the simplicity of life in the South Pacific.

In his work, Gauguin tried to sum up life's mysteries for which humankind had sought answers since the beginning of time.

The Spiritual Exercises Fair is open to all who seek truth and who are willing to listen to God's voice for daily guidance, organizers said.

For inquiries, call or text Gon at 0919-6630247, Vikky at 0928-6148600, or Yvonne at 0917-8171798.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, December 2, 2005
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 29:17-24
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31

As Jesus moved on from Capernaum, two blind men followed him, shouting, "Son of David, help us!" When he was about to enter the house, the blind men caught up with him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do what you want?" They answered, "Yes, sir!"

Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "As you have believed, so let it be." And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus gave them a stern warning, "Be careful and let no one know about this." But as soon as they went away, they spread the news about him through the whole area.

Commentary

Now we encounter two blind men following Jesus and shouting after him: "Son of David, help us!" They are acutely aware of their darkness and their need. And Jesus turns to question each of us: "Do you believe that I am able to do what you want?" They are quick to answer "Yes" and their eyes are touched and opened. Our eyes have been touched in baptism, anointed with oil, washed out with the waters of truth and joy. Are our eyes still open or have they slowly started to close, shrinking down our hearts and shutting out the light of the world? Do we believe? How do others know that we walk in the light?

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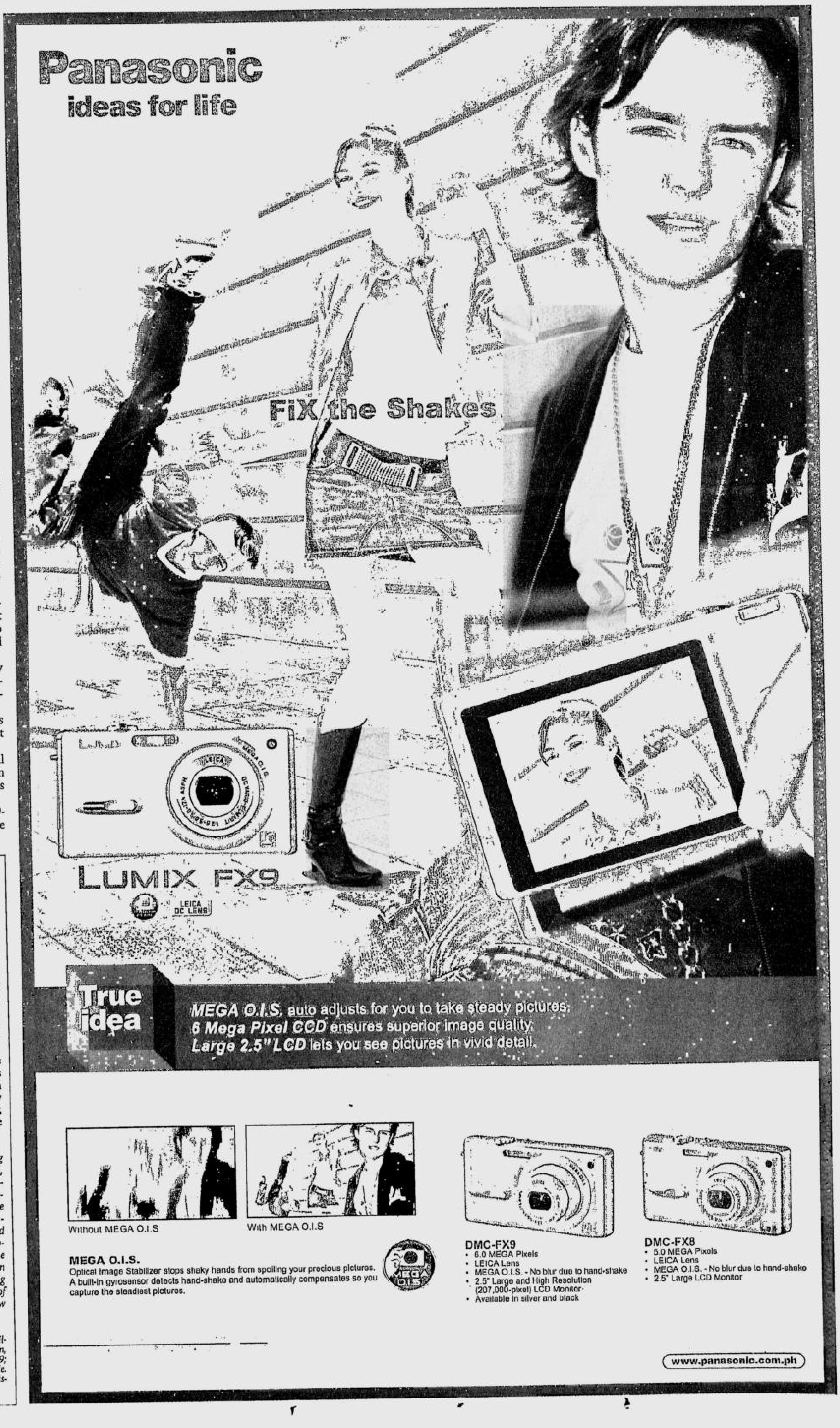
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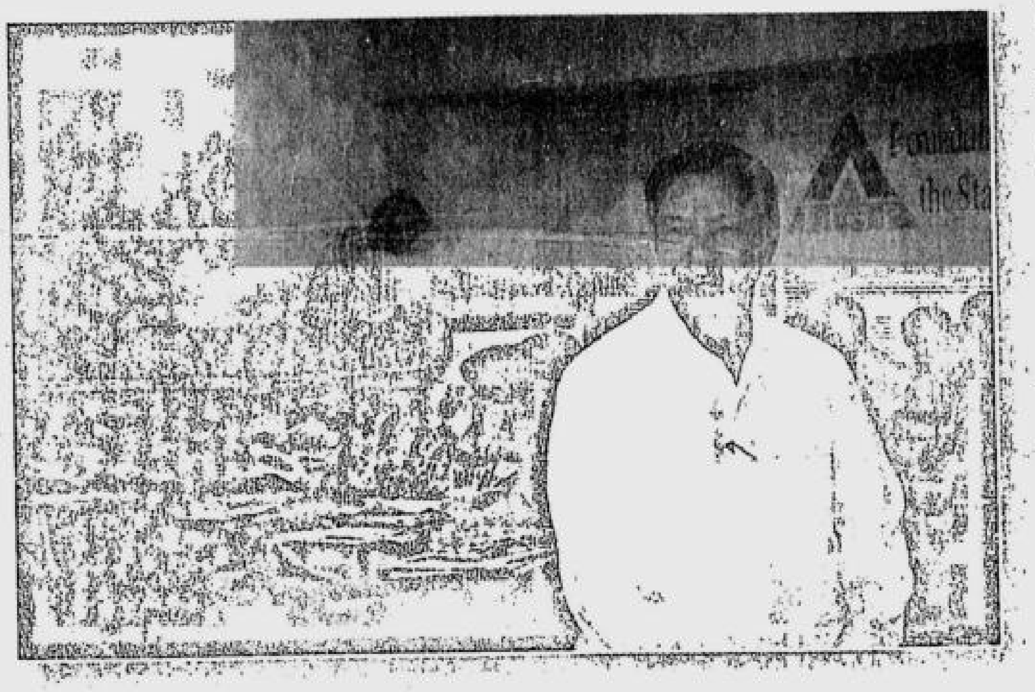
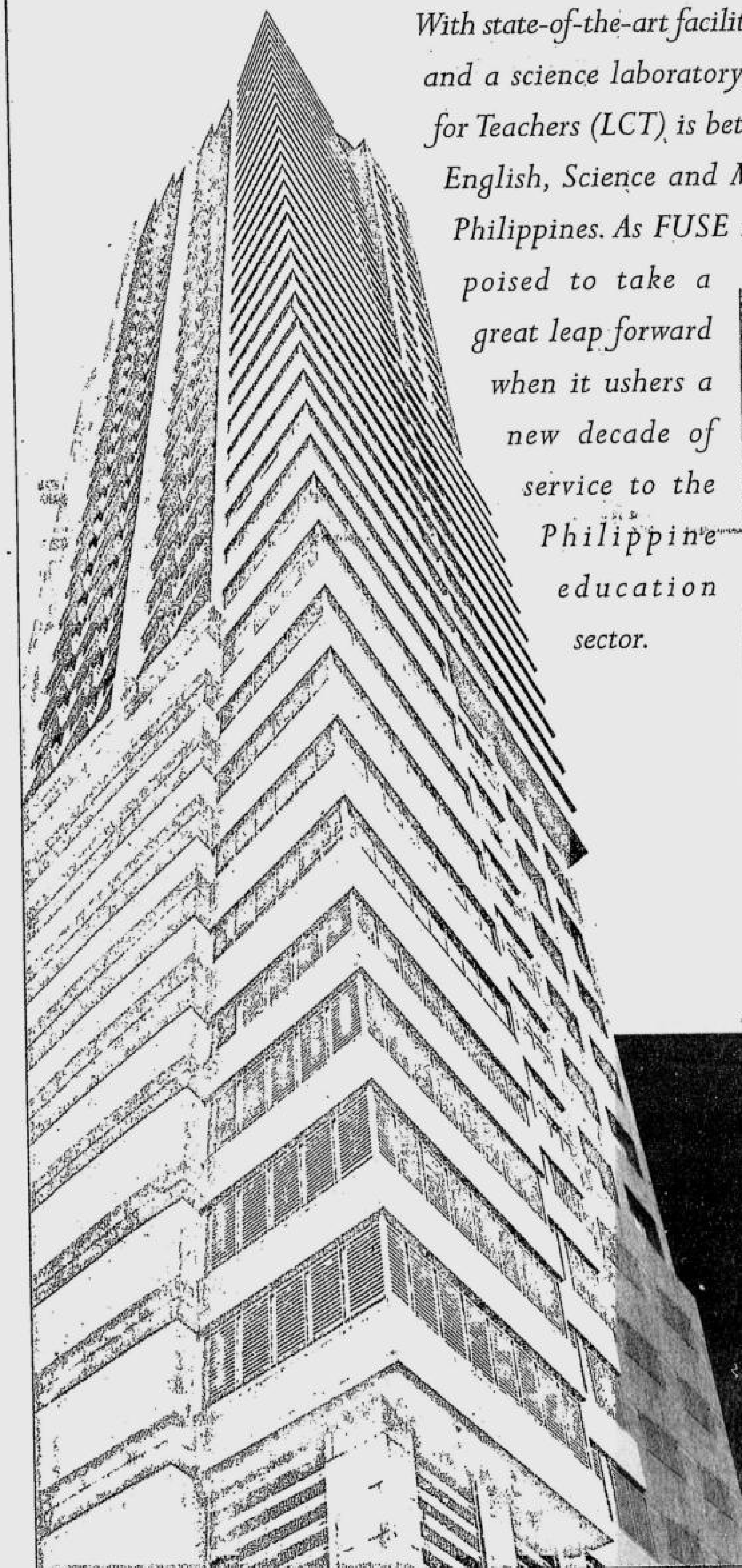
FUSE MOVES UP... AND FORWARD @11

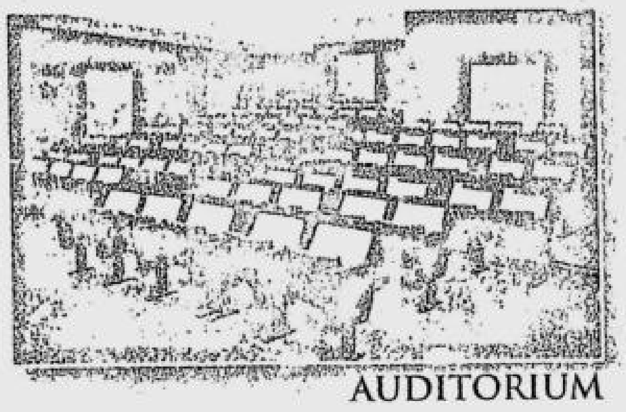


On its 11th year, the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education, Inc. (FUSE) finds a new home.

Through the generosity of its founder and benefactor, Dr. Lucio C. Tan, FUSE is moving to its new headquarters at the 12th Floor Pearl of the Orient Building, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila.



With state-of-the-art facilities, training rooms, auditorium and a science laboratory, the FUSE Learning Center for Teachers (LCT) is better equipped to help improve English, Science and Mathematics teaching in the Philippines. As FUSE moves to its new offices, it is poised to take a great leap forward when it ushers a new decade of service to the Philippine education sector.



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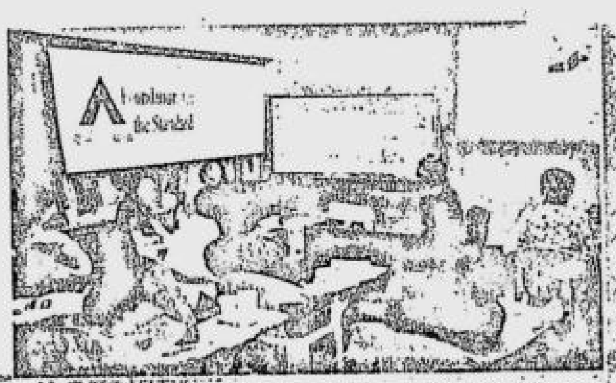

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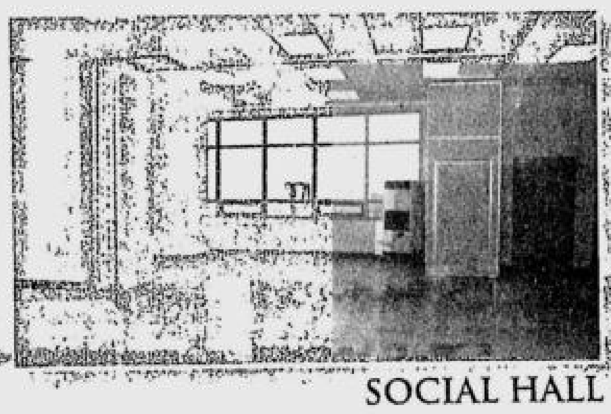

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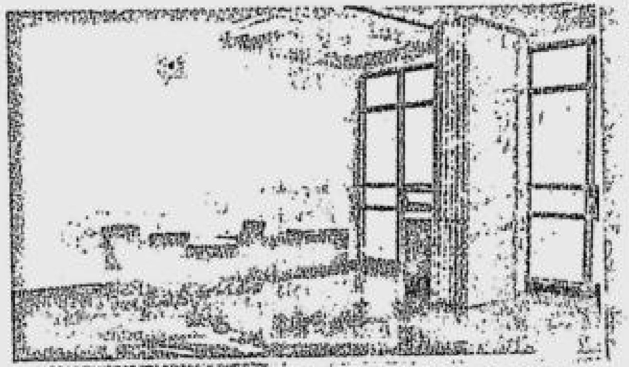

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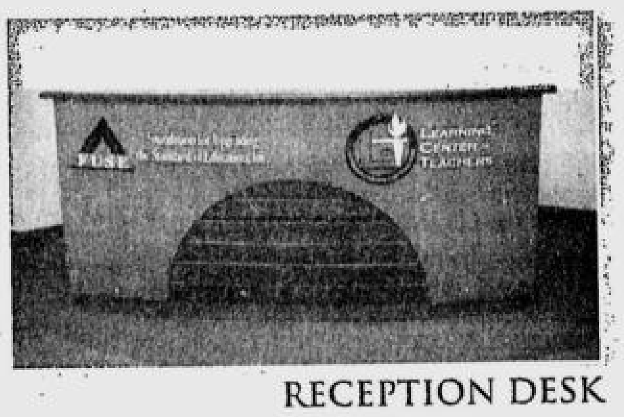

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No mercy from Mercy

By Armand N. Nocum

NEWLY-APPOINTED OMBUDSMAN MERCEDitas "Mercy" Gutierrez will have no mercy for those who are really corrupt and incompetent.

Shortly after taking her oath before Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Gutierrez declared: "I will have no mercy for those who should be charged but merciful for those who are falsely accused and should be absolved from any criminal liability."

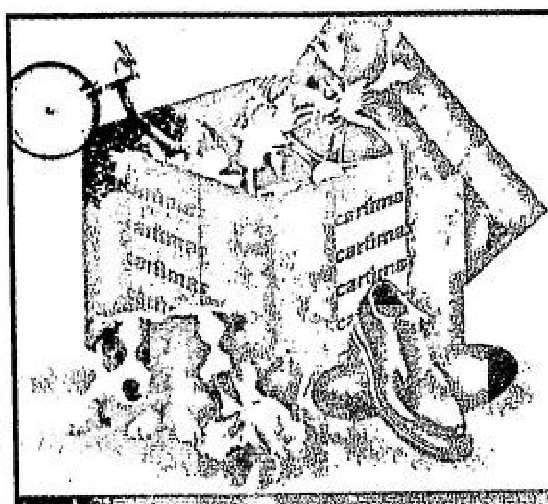
In an impromptu interview with Supreme Court reporters, Gutierrez said she would be relentless in her fight against grafters in government.

Gutierrez, who was also the administration's anticorruption czar, was recently appointed as the first woman to head the Ombudsman's office, besting 15 aspirants.

Still, her appointment was questioned by critics who doubt her independence from the Palace. However, they also agree that she should be given a chance to prove her worth.

During the brief interview, Gutierrez pledged to safeguard her independence and to act promptly on graft complaints as mandated by the law that created the Office of the Ombudsman.

"No one can approach and tell me how to dispose of a case in exchange for some consideration. I think my track record will speak for myself that I have always been independent and fair," she said.



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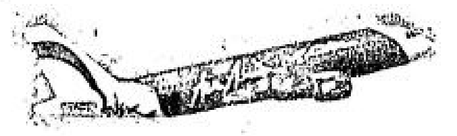

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Gloves off, Australia calls S'pore hanging 'barbaric'

UNDATED photo of Australian citizen Nguyen Tuong Van. AFP

SYDNEY—THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT dropped diplomacy on Thursday and called Singapore's plan to hang a young Australian drug smuggler "barbaric.".

Australia has repeatedly sought clemency for Tuong Van Nguyen, 25, who was convicted of smuggling 400 grams (0.9 lb) of heroin from Cambodia through Singapore's Changi airport in 2002.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock criticized the imposition of the death penalty, especially in Nguyen's case which he said had mitigating circumstances—Nguyen said he smuggled the drugs to try and pay off loan-shark debt for his brother in Australia.

"It was a mandatory death sentence. We feel most remorseful this is going to happen," Ruddock told Australian television.

"It's a most unfortunate, barbaric act that is occurring."

Then-Prime Minister Bob Hawke caused a huge rift with Malaysia that lasted a decade when he called the 1986 hanging of two Australian drug smugglers "barbaric."

Singapore is one of Australia's strongest allies in Asia and Australian Prime Minister John Howard has rejected calls for trade and military boycotts over the execution, which is scheduled for Friday.

Howard has, however, made five personal pleas to Singapore and his foreign and justice ministers have also called for clemency. But the city-state has stood firm, saying it would not allow Singapore to be used as a transit for illicit drugs.

Nguyen's lawyer, Lex Lasry, told Australian television from Singapore that Nguyen, a Catholic whose family came from Vietnam, was "ready to die."

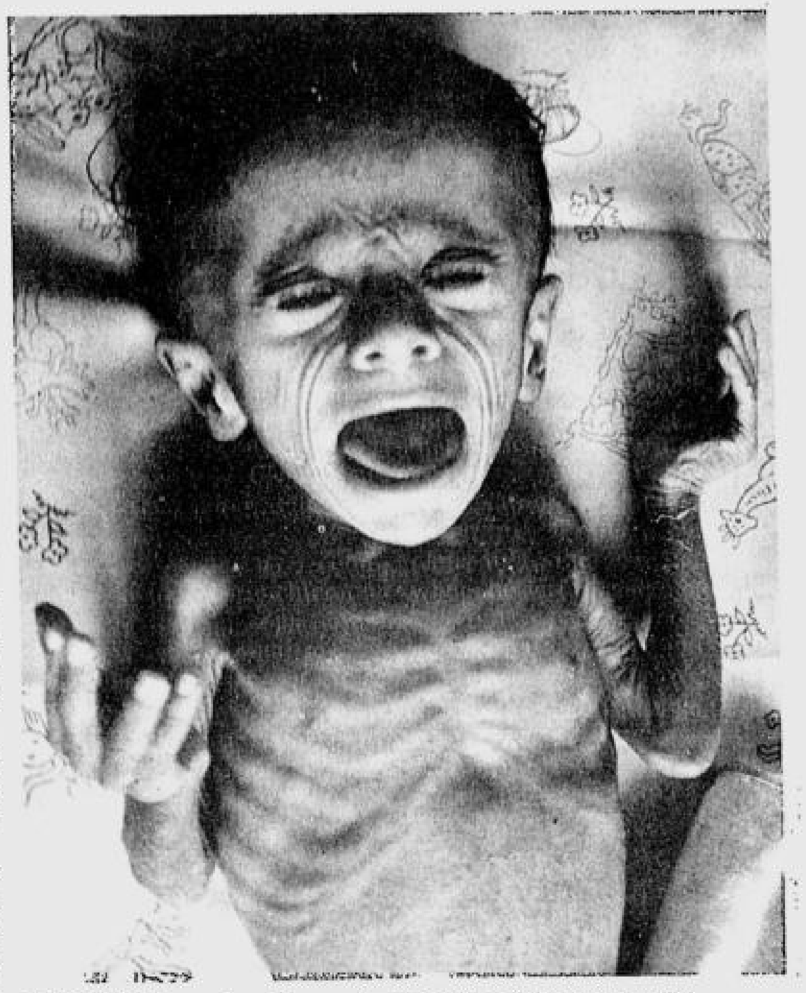
"He has little concern for himself. He has a great insight into his situation and he is, in fact, ready to die," he said.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer confirmed Nguyen's mother Kim Nguyen would be allowed to hold hands with her son before his execution.

But Singapore had knocked back a request that Nguyen and his mother be allowed to hug one last time.

Some 420 people have been hanged in Singapore since 1991, mostly for drug trafficking, an Amnesty International 2004 report said. That gives the country of 4.4 million people the highest execution rate in the world relative to population.

Australia abolished the death penalty decades ago. *Reuters*



VINEETH, 7 months old, reportedly HIV-positive, cries at the Community Health Education Society (CHES) orphanage in Madras, India, Nov. 29. Vineeth was found abandoned and is now cared by an an orphanage. The estimated number of HIV infections in India is 5.1 million. AP

US to mark grim milestone with 1,000th execution

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA—Kenneth Boyd, convicted in 1994 for the murder of his wife and father-in-law, will become the 1,000th prisoner executed in the United States since 1976, if he is put to death here as planned early Friday morning.

After eleven years on death row in this southeastern state, Boyd, 57, suddenly became the focus of national attention for the grim milestone this week after the governor of Virginia commuted the sentence of another death row inmate just hours before his execution.

A photograph of North Carolina prisoner 0040519 shows just another veteran inmate, a white man with a hollow face and fatigued eyes, framed by greying hair and a drooping moustache.

But when Boyd is killed by lethal injection at 2 a.m. Friday, he will have the ignominious honor of being the 1,000th person put to death by the United States since capital punishment was reinstated by the Supreme Court in 1976.

The court ruled that year that executions were allowable under the US Constitution, which forbids cruel and unusual punishment.

"The 1,000th execution is a significant event in the nation's 30-year experiment with capital punishment, said Richard Dieter, director of the Washington-based Death Penalty Information Center.

"But it is not indicative of an expanding or strongly endorsed use of capital punishment," Dieter said. "The impending milestone occurs at a time when the country is sharply moving away from the use of the death penalty."

Scores of protestors against capital punishment, including a group from Amnesty International, are expected to descend Thursday night on the Raleigh prison where Boyd will be killed.

"We've done it at 2 a.m. ever since the death penalty has been reinstated in 1976," explained Keith Acree, spokesperson for the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

"It's a time when the prison is pretty much locked down for the night. In the day, it's a very busy place, with inmates going to doctor appointments, to meals, etc.," he said.

Well over 3,000 people are currently on death row in US prisons.

But despite the bleak milepost, statistics show a 50 percent decline in the number of death sentences since the late 1990s, and a 40 percent drop in executions since they peaked at 98 in 1999. There were 59 executions last year. *AFP*

Let's talk about safe sex, Premier Singh tells India

By Kamil Zaheer

NEW DELHI—INDIA, WITH THE world's second largest number of HIV/AIDS cases, must shed its inhibitions and start talking openly about safe sex to protect itself against the epidemic, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Thursday.

It was vital to educate young men and women about how to lead a "healthy and safe sexual life," Singh told hundreds of young political leaders on World AIDS Day.

"This is particularly important given our traditional inhibitions about discussing such matters within our families and among our colleagues, quite apart from doing so in public," he said.

"This, quite obviously, has to change if we are to succeed in creating awareness of the hazards of unsafe sexual practices."

India says it has 5.13 million people living with HIV/AIDS, the second largest number after South Africa, but voluntary agencies and UNAIDS, the UN's anti-AIDS agency, say the figure is too low and many cases go unreported.

Many people, particularly in rural areas, have strongly conservative views about sexual practices and public discussion on safe sex is difficult to conduct.

Last month, a popular south Indian actress was pelted with sandals, tomatoes and rotten eggs and hauled before a court for telling Indian men not to expect their brides to be virgins.

But Singh said India needs to loosen up as HIV—if not dealt with robustly and openly—could threaten its future.

"You should fully comprehend the need to educate young men and women about the modes of transmission," said the soft-spoken Singh, wearing his trademark blue turban.

He also said not enough was being done to provide antiretroviral treatment to HIV-positive people. India missed its target of providing antiretroviral drugs to 100,000 people by mid-2004. Just 15,000 people are receiving the drugs.

"This is not enough. Prices must come down further to make these drugs more affordable and accessible to all."

Drugs can cost around 1,300 rupees a month ($28)—less than a meal for two at a medium-priced restaurant in New York or London—but still out of reach for many Indians.

Singh said millions of young Indians were at risk. *Reuters*

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Bush offers no date for Iraq pullout

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND—EMBATTLED PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Wednesday defiantly dismissed mounting worries about his Iraq war strategy, refusing to set a date for a US pullout and warning that victory requires "time and patience."

"Decisions about troop levels will be driven by the conditions on the ground in Iraq and the good judgment of our commanders, not by artificial timetables set by politicians in Washington," the president charged.

Bush, speaking to a friendly audience of midshipmen at the US Naval Academy here, took pains to praise Iraq's fledgling security forces and reiterated that they will eventually take over from US troops.

He acknowledged "some setbacks" in training Iraq's Army and police and acknowledged "their performance is still uneven in some areas" but said there had been steady progress even though only one battalion needs no US help.

"Not every Iraqi unit has to meet this level of capability in order for the Iraqi security forces to take the lead in the fight against the enemy," the president declared.

"The facts are that Iraqi units are growing more independent and more capable," he added. "They're in the fight today and they will be in the fight for freedom tomorrow." *AFP*

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Gulf nations eye sewage as source of fresh water

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—AS swimming pool suburbia spreads across the desert sands of the booming Gulf, developers and governments are wrangling with a major problem: There is almost no fresh water here.

The skyrocketing costs of desalination plants, long used as the source of most water, is leading governments to look at a possible, cheaper source—the wastewater from sewage plants.

"Is it dirty? Yes. But if it's properly treated, it is valuable," said Fady Juez, managing director of Metito, a Dubai-based company that designs water and sewage treatment plants.

Juez was among the experts from some of the world's driest countries who gathered for a two-day conference in the United Arab Emirates' capital of Abu Dhabi to seek ways to reuse the contaminated water that flows through their sewers.

The Arabian desert may be rich in oil, but it harbors not a single river.

Yet, construction booms and government policies of providing free city water have pushed per capita consumption to the highest levels in the world: Water is lavished on golf courses, gardens and fountains, even as groundwater in overtaxed aquifers grows salty and unusable.

All Middle Eastern countries except Iraq and Syria face severe water shortages in coming decades, according to presentations given at the conference.

"We are the driest part of the world," Juez said. "And we are multiplying like mad."

To compensate, Gulf countries have traditionally turned to desalination, which provides some 60 percent of the region's needs. But such treatement plants are expensive and consume much energy. *AP*

CRUSHED DREAM
Catherine Woods is seen in this 2001 Worthington Kilbourne School yearbook. Woods came to the big city from Ohio with dreams of making it big on Broadway. Instead, she wound up working as a topless dancer under the stage name "Ava"—a secret that came out only after she was stabbed to death in her apartment last weekend. AP

Kyoto becomes operational

MONTREAL—THE CONTROVERSIAL Kyoto protocol, aiming to cut greenhouse gas emissions, became fully operational on Wednesday after a UN climate conference here adopted the final rules.

The 34 signatory countries—which do not include the United States or Australia—passed the final regulatory measures by consensus at the Montreal conference.

"The Kyoto protocol is now fully operational. This is an historic step," said conference chair Stephane Dion, Canada's environment minister.

Under the protocol, the 34 agree to limit emissions of gases that cause global warming until 2012.

The Montreal conference is trying to set out preliminary plans to further cut emissions when the accord ends.

Kyoto was negotiated in 1997 and formally entered into force on Feb. 16, 2005. However, it could not come into operation until after the formal adoption of the rulebook, which was drawn up over the past four years. *AFP*

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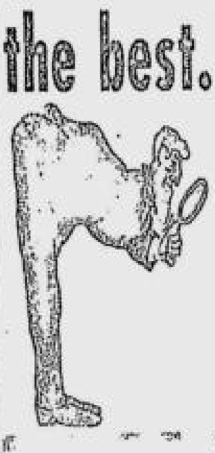

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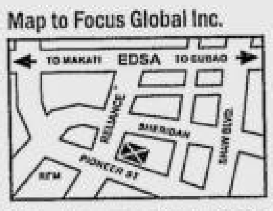

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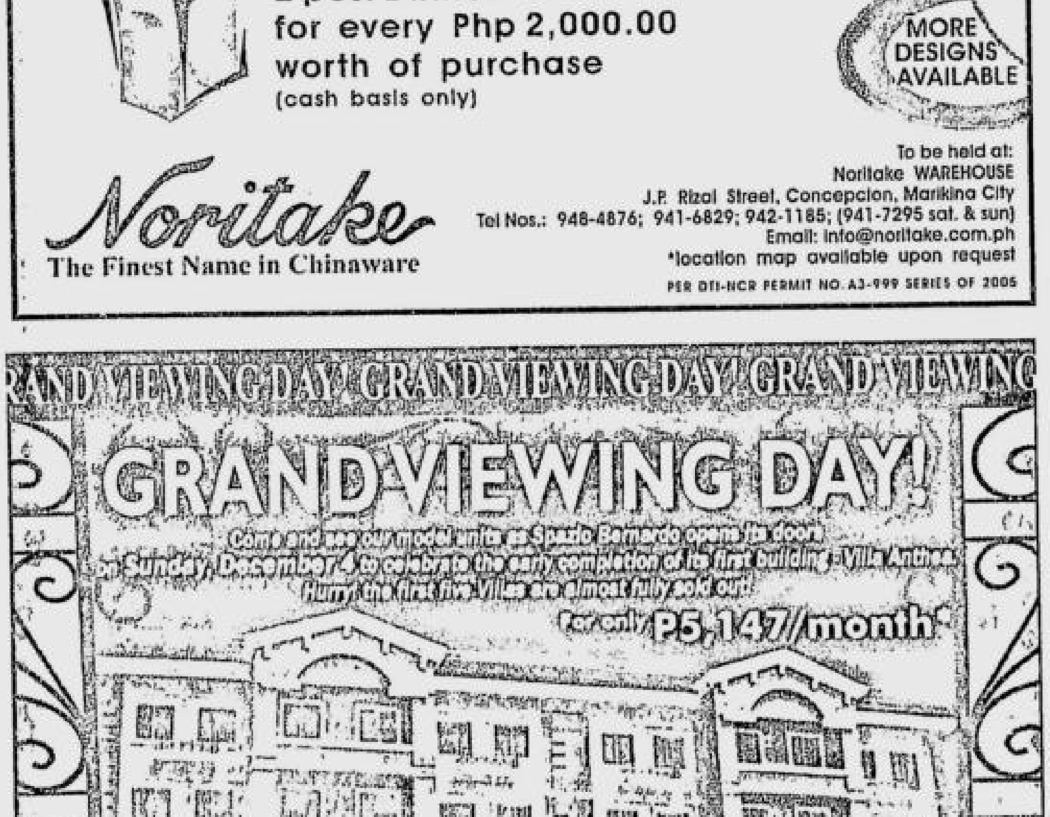

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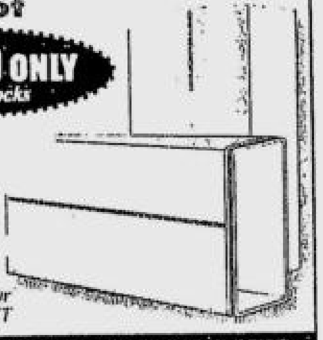

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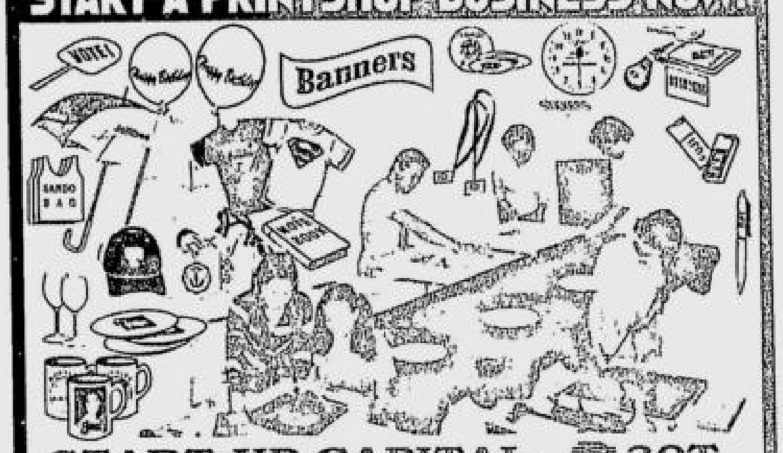

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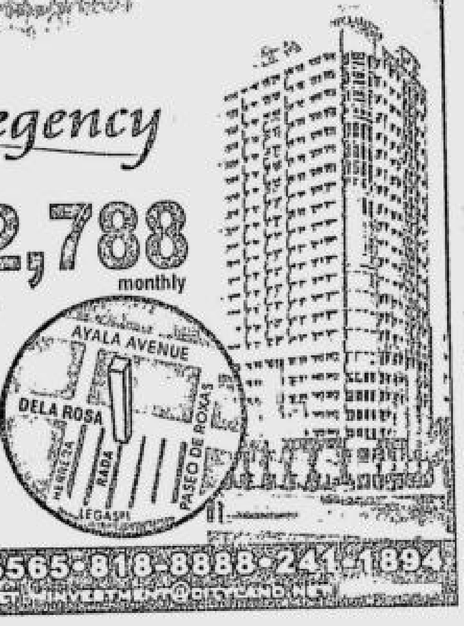

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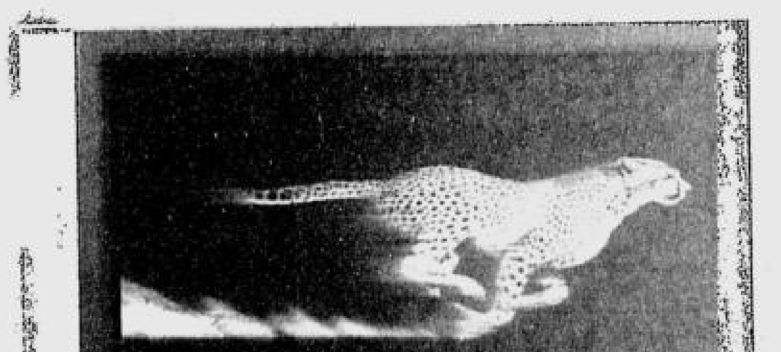

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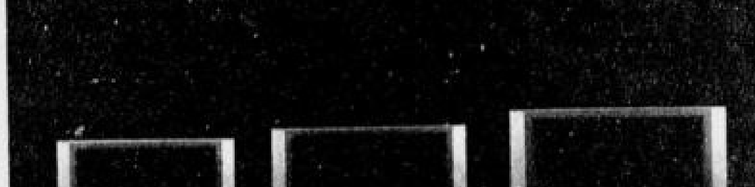

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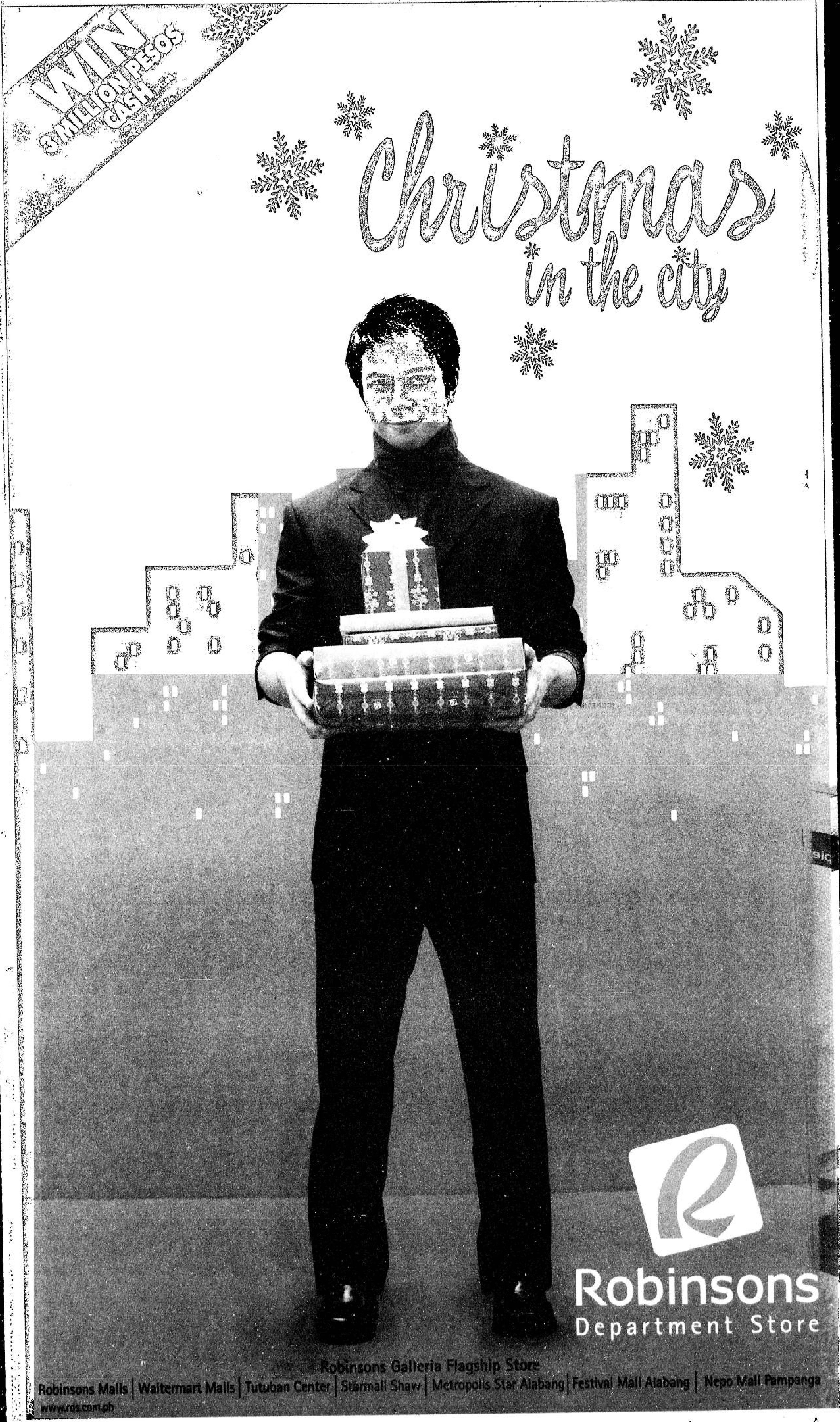
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Justice for the press

EDITORIAL

THE CONVICTION OF FORMER PO1 GUILLERMO Wapille for the murder of Mindanao journalist Edgar Damalerio is a welcome development in the campaign to stem the killings of journalists that seem to have become a merry cottage industry since the restoration of democracy in 1986. Statistically, the victory is small since there have been 99 reported killings of journalists since the strongman Ferdinand Marcos, who curbed press dissent and imprisoned media critics, was ousted. One solid conviction therefore is just a drop in the ocean of media murders.

But the victory, since it has been obtained so dramatically and against all odds, sends the signal that justice for the 98 other brutal deaths of journalists may be at hand. At the very least, it signals that the tide may have turned. While brutal reprisals against members of the press have become frequent and quite trendy—there were nine deaths this year alone—the conviction is powerful enough to provide an impetus to stemming the tide of media murders.

Depending on one's point of view, the conviction represents the victory of justice or another cautionary tale on how justice could be achieved at a prohibitive price far beyond the worth of justice. Damalerio was the managing editor of the Mindanao Scribe, and a commentator of dxKP in Pagadian City when he was killed on May 13, 2002. He was driving a jeep when he was gunned down by two men on a motorcycle. Two men with him on the jeep, Edgar Ongue and Edgar Amore, were the witnesses. They pointed to Wapille as the gunman.

But alas, it was one thing to have witnesses, and another thing to have them testify in court. Despite being tagged as the gunman, Wapille was not suspended but merely placed on "restricted supervision" by his fellow officers. He was not formally ordered arrested until January 2003. Apparently he had been tipped about his arrest since he escaped from the custody of his fellow officer before the warrant could be served. This paper ran his photograph every day until he surrendered in September 2004.

But when the trial opened last February, it seemed everything was stacked against justice. Before he could testify against Wapille, Amore, a teacher, was shot dead. Ongue was also attacked in February, but he fought back and survived. Much earlier, in August 2002, a third witness, Jury Ladica, was also killed.

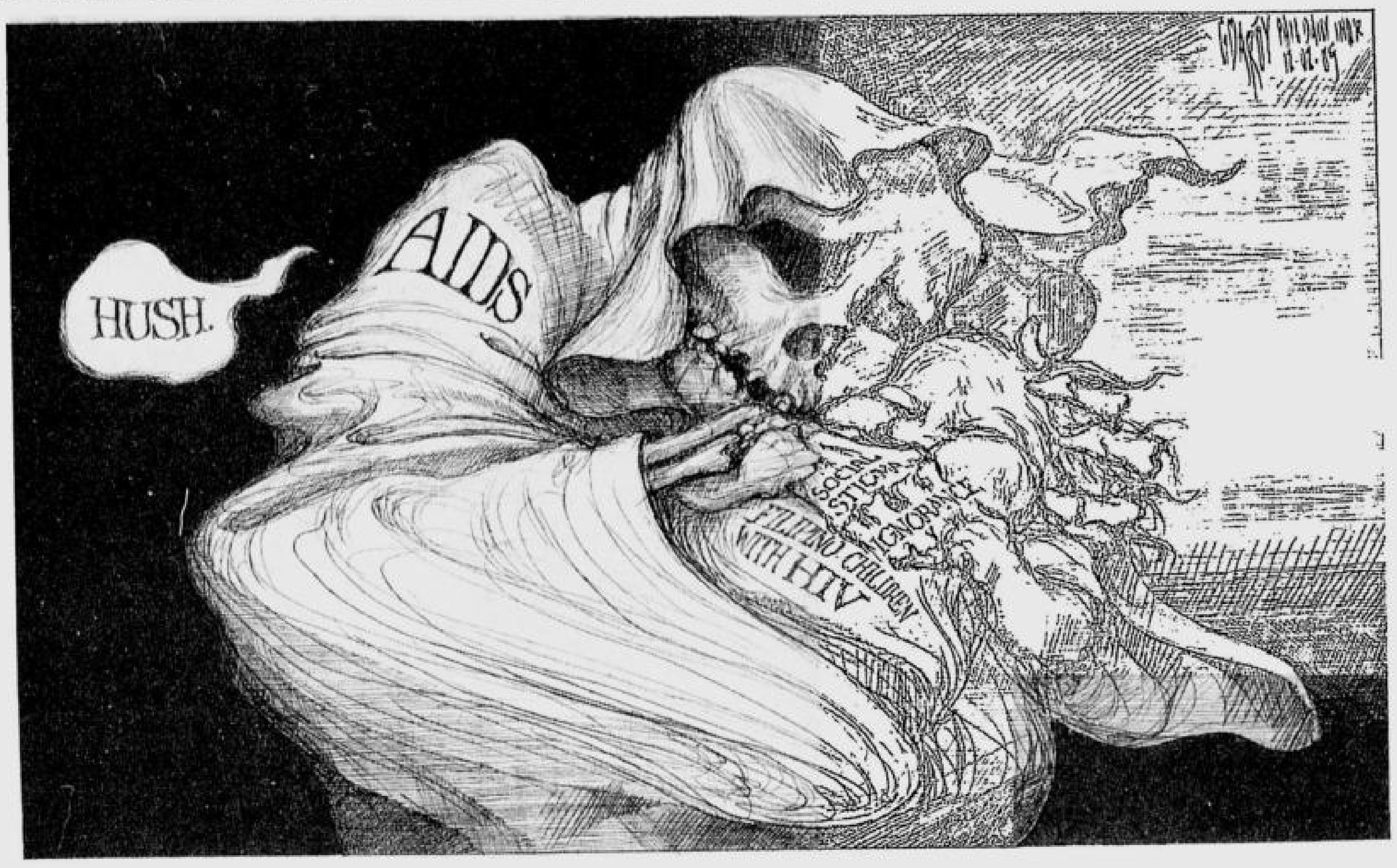
Realizing the danger of holding the trial in Mindanao, the prosecution and Gemma Damalerio, the wife of the victim, petitioned the Supreme Court to transfer the trial to Manila or Cebu City. Acting with dispatch, the court's first division last March ordered the trial to be transferred to Cebu. It also ordered Wapille's transfer from the Pagadian City Reformatory Center to the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center in Lahug, Cebu City.

The Department of Justice, for its part, put Ongue and the Damalerio widow under the Witness Protection Program. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, meanwhile, ordered the investigation of Wapille's former boss, Supt. Asuri Hawari, who allegedly presented a bogus witness to tag another person as the killer of Damalerio in order to confuse the court and let Wapille off the hook.

The brutal deaths that antedated the conviction may indicate that justice can only be obtained after much bloody sacrifice. But it is consoling to think that the deaths and the sacrifices of the witnesses and the prosecution team have not been in vain. This is an important point to remember lest people, who otherwise are prepared to face the odds in order to uphold justice, lose faith and hope.

It is also well to remember that the Supreme Court and the DOJ have responded well to the emergency. Through their determination and foresight, the trial was able to serve the ends of justice. They limited Wapille's ambit of influence in Mindanao, which could have frustrated the agents of justice. They also acted with resolution and intelligence in protecting the witnesses.

The Damalerio case shows that the killings of journalists could be stemmed and stopped by competent investigation and resolute prosecution. The same ingredients—firm law enforcement and effective administration of justice—could apply as well to the brutal killings not only of other journalists, but of other professionals and public servants as well. It is because assassins and killers have not been brought to justice that violence seems to have spiraled nationwide. Now that Damalerio has been given justice, the Wapilles of the nation have been warned.



House showed why Charter shouldn't be changed

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED the other night a resolution calling for the convening of a constituent assembly to change our Constitution. In so doing, it showed to us very clearly why we should not touch the Constitution while the present congressmen, and especially their leaders, are still there. We cannot trust that wild bunch.

The congressmen showed the abuses they can do when the present two-house Congress is changed into a unicameral legislature. The Constitution will be changed for one principal reason: to shift to a parliamentary system where the prime minister will be elected not by the people, as in the present presidential system, but by members of parliament, the counterparts of the present congressmen. In a unicameral legislature headed by a leader they themselves elected, the MPs can do pretty much what they want. There will be no Senate to balance the House as at present. Worse, since the prime minister—the counterpart of the present (ugh!) speaker—would be the chief executive—the counterpart of the present president—and the Supreme Court justices will be chosen by the MPs, there will be no system of checks and balances among the three branches of government. Only one person will be running the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. Can you imagine what any of the present congressmen can do when put in such a position of power?

In a parliamentary form of government, the MPs can railroad any legislation as the House did the other night when it passed that resolution calling for a constituent assembly despite objections from the minority. The Senate has made it known that it does not want a constituent assembly, where the present members of Congress would write the new constitution, and prefers an elected constitutional convention. So House members tried to trick the senators into agreeing to a joint session where they can always outvote the senators. Fortunately, the latter were wise to these tricks.

What's more, 80 percent of Filipinos have said in opinion polls that they don't want to shift to a parliamentary system or have the Constitution amended. Instead of heeding the people whom they were elected to represent, the congressmen rammed the resolution to amend the Charter through the House.

For her part, President Macapagal-Arroyo created and appointed the members of a Consultative Commission to draft a new Charter. The leadership of that commission already had a draft prepared even before its first meeting.

Although it was called a "Consultative Commission," it did not consult the people before writing the proposed new charter. Instead, it went ahead and wrote it and then went through the motions of "consultations" by conducting meetings in a few selected places and presented its fait accompli for the people's acceptance. The commission members should have first asked the people if they wanted the Constitution changed and if so, what provisions did they want changed and how. Instead, they first wrote the charter and then presented the finished product to the people for their approval.

Before a new charter can take effect, it must first be approved by the people in a referendum. Before the voting, congressmen and other administration leaders will campaign all over the country (spending the people's taxes), extolling the virtues of the new Constitution and urging the people to vote for it. They will argue that the present two-house Congress is unwieldy and slow and takes too long to pass bills.

We have a Tagalog saying: "*Ang lumalakad ng matulin, kung matinik ay malalim*" (which is the equivalent of "Haste makes waste"). We already have too many laws passed too quickly that turned out to be defective (a perfect example: the Urban Development and Housing Act that worsened the squatting problem a hundredfold). If two houses of Congress can still make such a mistake, what more a unicameral legislature giving emphasis to speed and not to wisdom?

Besides, we already have too many laws; we don't need new ones. Very many laws are not being implemented anyway. Just look at the many laws against graft and corruption, on traffic, against sidewalk vending and against squatting—and especially against cheating in elections and against lying. The laws are not being implemented and so we have these problems getting worse instead of better. And we have the spectacle of a President who allegedly cheated her way to Malacañang and witnesses brazenly lying through their teeth and getting away with it.

They will argue that our present Constitution is "too nationalistic" and prevents foreign investors from investing in the Philippines. So the new charter will open up our country to foreigners. They can exploit our natural resources, cut our forests, mine our mountains, fish our seas, own our lands. The new charter will deprive Filipinos of their birthright. Filipinos will be slaves in their own country and foreigners will be their masters and owners of their country.

Since Spanish times, our rebellions were caused by the lack of land for the people. It is still the principal cause of the present rebellions despite an agrarian reform law. Our environment is already in crisis. Now a new constitution will open up our land, sea and air to plunder and exploitation by foreigners.

What can we do to prevent such abuse? Vote "No" against the new Constitution if it ever comes to a vote.

Garci's truth and other oxymorons

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IN JULY 2004, I WONDERED ALOUD IN THIS space about Virgilio Garcillano. I recalled that in the just concluded Supreme Court proceedings on the citizenship of Fernando Poe Jr., he and fellow Comelec appointee Manuel Barcelona officiously gave the Supreme Court their views on FPJ's eligibility (not eligible, they said), when the Court hadn't even asked for their individual views at all. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. then called it an "unabashed show of partisanship and servility to the person who appointed [them]." And truly, one of the first acts of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the very day of her inauguration on June 30, 2004, was to reappoint Garci, who apparently was so confident that, though his term had ended earlier that month, he did not clear out of his office for the next 20 days, apparently assured that GMA would bless him anew.

I said then that I can give Garcillano the "benefit of every doubt, and there are doubts aplenty." Today, more than a year later, Garci has resolved all doubts against himself.

As Garci hems and haws about appearing before Congress, it is clear that the whole game is about how to trap a liar into telling the truth. The conjurers of the tale that GMA won fair and square are confident that they have a believable script and that their ward will act out his part with aplomb. Those who refuse to be taken for a ride are hoping that Garci will falter, or realize that by following the script too faithfully, he might make himself dispensable to his patrons, and likewise "disposable" in a rather final, funereal way. Garci's dilemma is that he must tell just enough to please his bosses, but hold back enough to hold them hostage.

But what I find perplexing is why the Filipino public seems more amused than alarmed about the outright fraud that Garci embodies. Here was a man caught on tape conspiring to rig the elections he was supposed to safeguard. He was summoned to tell the truth before Congress, but disappeared. Justice authorities did not lift a finger to find him, and when it seemed that he had turned fugitive in foreign lands, even the Department of Foreign Affairs took its own sweet time tracing him. They had to be reminded, in media and before Congress, to assist in the legislative inquiry, and eventually confirmed that Garci did in fact transit through Singapore. Yet our Department of Justice's own immigration bureau said that, by their records, Garci never exited the Philippines!

At some point during the martial law years, it was said that the Filipino had lost the capacity for moral outrage, and it took the brutal slaying of Ninoy Aquino to shake him out of his lethargy. What induces apathy today?

The common thought says that there is no outrage simply because there are no viable alternatives. Sure Gloria must go, but who will take her place? All the alternatives are flawed, so the argument goes. What made Edsa I possible was Cory Aquino, the united opposition's candidate, and at Edsa II, it was GMA, who was Erap's vice president. Today, not a single even marginally acceptable figure has emerged, proponents say.

But look again at Edsa I. The outrage came before the alternative became clear. I marched at Ninoy's funeral, and walked in the rain with millions of others. A natural, spontaneous outrage was in the air, yet it would take another three years before Cory would rise to become the rallying figure for the democratic opposition. Popular indignation thrived first, the search for personalities followed. We found our cause, and then we searched for a leader.

Today, it is not the crusaders but the crusade that is wanting. People lament the lack of leadership in the opposition. Maybe first they should mourn that we have replaced the politics of causes with the politics of accommodation.

Thus resigned to self-serving politics, we then become cynical about government. We demean the public sphere as nothing but an arena for personal depredation. We belittle democratic elections as nothing but a cycle of political ins and outs, much like the way opposition leaders began to divvy the spoils after the two Edsas and, indeed, in July 2005 when they thought GMA was about to fall. Yet we caricature anything outside of government as private power that is suspect, patronizing and beholden to hidden agenda. Even public outrage itself we suspect as orchestrated, as either rent-a-crowd slum-dwellers bused into Mendiola, or hard-line ideologues mobilized by local commissars. We thus trap ourselves into inaction. Unwittingly, we paint ourselves into a corner, insisting on heroic leaders, yet unsure what genuine heroism means in our day.

That is why the real task today is not simply to find new leaders, but to redefine the future that will beckon that leadership. In a way, the reason we do not rush head-long into replacing GMA is that we learned one lesson from Edsa II, ironically the same exercise that crowned her as President. It is not enough merely to replace leaders; we must also transform our politics and our expectations of our leaders.

Garci may unwittingly yield more truths in what he forces us to learn about ourselves. Then Philippine democracy may yet find President Arroyo's graceful exit in Garci's truth. Now try counting the oxymorons in that sentence.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Charter change still meeting stiff Senate resistance

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ATTEMPT BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENtative to fast-track constitutional revision has run into an early roadblock after some senators slammed a House resolution passed on Tuesday calling on both chambers of Congress to convene as a constituent assembly to propose amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

After the House unanimously approved the resolution by voice vote on Tuesday, the resolution immediately touched a raw nerve in the Senate, which has to agree with the House before the two chambers can transform themselves into a constituent assembly. Sparks began to fly when at least two senators—Joker Arroyo and Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.—objected, reflecting the latent opposition of most senators to letting a constituent assembly do constitutional revision.

Arroyo questioned the "unanimous" manner by which the resolution was passed, pointing out that 23 House members signed it and 22 did not. He said the move to revise the Constitution faced delay and the resolution was headed for the "archives" for a "much-needed rest."

Although Pimentel had earlier indicated that he was open to the idea of a constituent assembly as an expeditious and less expensive way to revise the charter, rather than convening a constitutional convention, he appeared to have been piqued by the administration's haste to make a switch to the parliamentary system, with the aid of its allies and numbers in the House.

At the heart of the resistance of most senators to the shift to parliamentary system is the fear that the Senate would be abolished by an amendment that would install a unicameral national assembly that has no seats for them. The early Senate opposition to the House resolution represents a setback to the administration's initiative to shift to the parliamentary system and foreshadows a tough battle that lies ahead for the constitutional revision project. It has the makings of another bruising confrontation between the Senate and the House and another gridlock to add to the current political stalemate over the moves to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo before the end of her electoral term.

The President set the tone for constitutional change in her State of the Nation Address on July 25, when she said that "our political system has now become a hindrance to our national progress." She said that "over the years, our political system has degenerated to the extent that it is difficult for anyone to make any headway yet keep his hands clean." Her keynote was: "The system clearly needs fundamental change, and the sooner the better. It's time to start the great debate on Charter change."

While Ms Arroyo acknowledged that the mode of Charter change was the exclusive prerogative of Congress, she endorsed a constituent assembly saying it "may well give our people the quickest reforms." This call defined the initiatives of the President's allies in the House, translated into proposals by Speaker Jose de Venecia to fast-track the constituent assembly project with a target of presenting a draft of the new constitution next year and of holding a referendum by the middle of the year.

This shift of the national agenda to constitutional change in the midst of the President's crisis of legitimacy was immediately interpreted by regime opponents as a "graceful exit" by 2007 rather than as a fundamental constitutional reform designed to avoid stalemates that have become more pronounced during the current crisis.

The administration appears determined to push through the constituent assembly project. It has already formed a Constitutional Commission headed by Jose Abueva, an ardent advocate of the change to parliamentary system. The commission is expected to present a draft by early next year.

As a sweetener to senators, the commission plans to propose in the transitory provisions of the new constitution that all senators whose terms will end in 2007 and in 2010 will become automatic members of the transitory parliament along with all incumbent members of the House. Under this plan, the first general parliamentary election under the new constitution will be held in 2010.

The only thing clear in this jumble of plans is that the immediate convening of a constituent assembly takes foremost priority and urgency. The assembly is supposed to be the opening stage of the process of constitutional revision.

Unclear is whether the change would piggyback on a federal structure with a shift to the parliamentary system. Left unsaid is what Ms Arroyo's fate would be after 2007. Will the transitory provision mandate the end of her presidency in 2007? Can she run for member of parliament and compete for the premiership? Or will she be reduced to a figurehead president in a ceremonial presidency?

Since not an insignificant section of the population is clamoring for her resignation and a premature end to her presidency, the ambiguity over her status after the planned system change in 2007 arouses a lot of concern. This concern creates resistance to the drive for constitutional revision.

Since the Sona last July, it is undeniable that the initiative for the shift to parliamentary system has gathered momentum and concrete steps have been taken to start the legislative process for change. Public interest in Charter change has increased. The crisis has underlined the search not for a "graceful exit" for the President but more importantly for a "soft landing" from the crisis.

The Senate's assent to the constituent assembly to jumpstart the process of constitutional change is crucial to this search for a compromise formula.

Marriage and AIDS

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

CELIBACY, OR FAILING THAT, MONOGAMY OR fidelity, so "traditional wisdom" tells us, are "fail-safe" solutions to the AIDS pandemic. If people would only stop having sex, then they would not be at risk of contracting HIV infection, which is spread primarily through sex. And if people would have sex only with people they are married to or with whom they have long-term committed relationships, then they would not be at risk of infection either, assuming of course that both of them are not infected.

But we know, of course, that even celibacy, monogamy or fidelity are not the touted "magic bullets" against AIDS. There are other ways of transmitting HIV besides sex involving the transfer of body fluids—these include intravenous injections, transfusion of infected blood, and even mother-to-child infection in the womb or during delivery. And as millions of people, mostly women, can attest to, even if one has remained monogamous or faithful to one's partner, if that partner has had or continues to have sexual relations with others, then the faithful spouse or significant other is equally at risk of contracting not just HIV/AIDS, but also other sexually transmitted infections.

In fact, says a recent study, marriage is "unfortunately the most likely source of HIV infection for women," which, says Bernard Muthaka in an article in The Nation of Kenya, merely "confirmed long held suspicions."

While the study quoted by Muthaka was conducted in Africa, the social conditions and gender relations it covers are quite similar to those obtaining here.

* * *

"TRADITIONAL wisdom has it that being faithful to one's partner will greatly reduce the chances of infection," writes Muthaka. But recent statistics compiled in Africa "now indicate that up to 80 percent of new infections in women occur in marriage or long-term relationships with primary partners." Of every 10 newly infected women, only two would have had sex outside their marriage or with people other than their partners.

"So, what happened to the other eight?" asks Muthaka.

"Maybe it is an adolescent girl married to a much older man. Hardly able to insist that the husband use a condom, even if she knew he is unfaithful?

"Maybe it is a battered woman who depends on her partner or husband to support her and her children. Can she raise the subject of faithfulness or condom use?

"Maybe it is a young wife who is under pressure to produce a child, either to please her husband or her in-laws? Will she insist on condom use? One of them was raped perhaps."

Indeed, this year's "State of the World Population" report notes that "married women would often rather risk HIV infection than ask their husbands to use a condom or confront them over infidelity." Many are left to wonder how they acquired the infection even if they have been submissive and faithful to their husbands.

A study in the Kisumu region of Kenya found that 33 percent of married girls (below 18 years of age) were HIV-positive compared to 22 percent of sexually active unmarried girls of the same age range.

* * *

MARY Mbeo, a program manager with Unifem, the UN Development Fund for Women, points out another reason women and girls are particularly at risk of HIV infection. "Some of the reasons for the high rates of infection among married women are the very reasons that most Africans marry—they want to have children," says Mbeo. "You cannot conceive and protect yourself from HIV at the same time."

Muthaka also notes that "despite this disproportionate vulnerability, it has also been shown that women and girls represent 75 percent of those caring for people living with HIV. At the same time, they are often the last and least likely to receive care when they themselves are infected.

"Because of the way their bodies were created, and because of the way society views and treats them, women are now being infected at a higher rate than men, even though the epidemic initially affected mostly men."

So we already know that women and girls are disproportionately at risk of HIV infection, oftentimes through no fault of their own, and are unfairly burdened as well by caretaking and nursing duties for infected family members. The report also stresses that "gender discrimination, poverty and violence are at the center of the HIV/AIDS epidemic." But what are governments and societies doing about it?

* * *

IN THE PHILIPPINES, one of the strategies the national government, a few local government executives, as well as social institutions like schools and the Catholic Church, have chosen to adopt regarding HIV/AIDS is formal denial of the link between gender relations, reproductive health and rights and slowing or reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Indeed, any program or project which even bears the phrase "sexual and reproductive health and rights," no matter how laudable or innocuous its methodology, is rejected outright out of suspicion that it has a "hidden agenda" to promote.

What's happening, it seems, is that the primary goals of saving lives, caring for those living with HIV, or educating the public about the disease have taken a back seat to amorphous fears of promoting promiscuity, pre-marital sex or even sexual choice.

But as stated earlier in this column, not even monogamy, fidelity or abstinence will completely protect people from HIV/AIDS. In fact, it seems to me that a healthy acceptance of our sexual nature, along with full information and education about the disease and full access to services and medications, might well be the "magic bullets" we're so desperately seeking.

'Signs of identity'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

(*Continued from Wednesday*)

THE PHILIPPINES AND THE FILIPINOS ARE separated from their Hispanic past because of language. We know that there is so much material in libraries and archives both in the Philippines and Spain available and yet inaccessible to most interested Filipinos because of language. Ferdinand Marcos even issued a decree recognizing Spanish as an official language of the Philippines until such time that all our historical records are translated from the original Spanish and made available to the people in English, Filipino and other major Philippine languages.

Most foreigners wonder why Filipinos do not speak or understand Spanish despite three centuries under Spain. One reason may be that the Philippines being an archipelago with over 7,000 islands and peopled by different ethno-linguistic groups, it was deemed easier for Spanish friars and government officials to learn local languages than teach Filipinos one common language (which the Americans did quite successfully in half a century). That the Filipinos did not learn the language that would have united them can be seen from figures presented by Dr. Alma Ocampo-Salvador of the Ateneo de Manila University: In 1898 [the end of Spanish rule], there were 757,463 Filipinos who could speak Spanish. In 1939, the number declined to 417,375, and by 1948, the number dwindled further to 345,111. In 1990, only 2,662 people spoke Spanish. We do not have the figures for 2005, but we would like to believe that the lucrative jobs for Spanish speakers in call centers in the Philippines have encouraged a significant increase because Spanish-speaking staff are better paid than their colleagues who only mastered English.

The United States not only implanted English in the Philippines, but with it, a view of history that depicted Americans as liberators and benevolent assimilators. While Filipino schoolchildren can talk of the cruelty of Spain, the execution of our heroes, etc., they do not know about the horrors of the Filipino-American War or how the United States abandoned the Philippines during World War II and allowed the country and people to be crushed in order to delay the Japanese march across the Pacific. One could say that this lopsided view of history is the fault of historians with a pro-American bias but, in retrospect, one of the reasons for this state of affairs is that language alienated Filipinos from their past.

Most people associate the word "pre-historic" with dinosaurs and cave men, when the term should rightly be seen as the period before written or recorded history. There was a time when the recorded history of the Philippines began with Ferdinand Magellan and his "discovery" of the Philippines in 1521. Actually, the archipelago had no name or at least had one that has since been forgotten. Magellan christened the islands "Archipelago de San Lazaro," and it was Villalobos who, later in 1543, gave the islands the present name "Felipenas" after Philip II of Spain. Thus, we are a country and people named after a 16th-century Spanish monarch. What we were called before becoming Filipinos is now lost to history.

It is important to see the reaction to the above viewpoint as expressed by Gregorio Zaide, who argued for a reevaluation of Philippine history and an interpretation based not on a Spanish but on a Filipino viewpoint. How could Magellan have discovered the Philippines, he asked, when there were people living there already? Surely they had a name, a culture, some form of identity, but where did all that go? Zaide encouraged a reading of history from the Filipino viewpoint: Magellan did not discover the Philippines, he "rediscovered" the Philippines.

And so it remained but for an opposing view from another historian, Teodoro Agoncillo, who stated that Zaide's line of thinking was, despite its good intentions, at best misleading and inaccurate. To prove his point, Agoncillo asked how Magellan "rediscovered" the Philippines. Was Zaide saying that the archipelago disappeared, or hid underwater for a while, only to resurface again for Magellan to rediscover it?

It has been two decades since we discussed this historiographical issue with Agoncillo, and we would like to believe that since then, we have matured in the practice and interpretation of history. For when we write our own version of the general history of the Philippines, we will not say that Magellan "discovered" the Philippines in 1521, for that is the Spanish view of that event. We will not even say Magellan "rediscovered" the Philippines, for the Zaide line is a rabid nationalist interpretation of that same event. We will simply state that Magellan arrived in the Philippines in 1521. That is the modern Filipino viewpoint.

As you can see, the story has not changed, the characters are the same and so is the date. But as you can also see, one simple word—from "discovered" to "rediscovered" to "arrived"—colors the whole way in which the story is understood. How do we rediscover, rewrite and reevaluate our tired past if we do not have the Spanish sources as keys to a new way of seeing that past? Only with a full grasp of the material can one come to terms with our shared past and be liberated, rather than imprisoned, by history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Mar

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE OTHER DAY, I THOUGHT ABOUT MY *KUMPARE* MAR, who had been my assistant while I was handling an anthropology field school back in 1999.

I recruited him because my students were going to interview families of seafarers in one of the subdivisions in Cavite. He knew the life of the seafarer through and through because he had been one himself.

'Kuya'

More than that though, he had the personality to work with students. He was young, and therefore someone they could relate to, but he was also older than them, so he could maintain distance and be watchful.

The students latched on to him immediately, calling him Kuya.

He had many stories to tell. He was a man of the world, as our seafarers go. He had seen the world, and had a job that paid very well (nearly $1,000 a month). He had dreams of starting a family, but only after he was sure his parents would be comfortable.

After one of his deployments, he had to go through a medical examination to prepare for the next assignment. That was when they told him he was HIV positive. He didn't know what it meant, until the clinic personnel explained that HIV was the virus which causes a condition called AIDS.

It was the end of his life as a seafarer. He drifted from one odd job to another, until he learned that the Department of Health was helping out people with HIV. He became active in Pinoy Plus, an organization of HIV positives, going around to help educate people about AIDS (yes, condoms do work; no, you can't get it from casual contact or even from kissing). He quickly became one of Pinoy Plus' leaders.

Mar eventually married another person with HIV. I was one of several *ninongs* when their daughter was baptized. Amid the celebrations, there was apprehension: Was the baby HIV positive or not? If we tested her too early, she'd come out positive because she was sure to have the antibodies from her mother. We waited until she was a year old. I received the results by text: "Doc, OK *ang inaanak mo.*"

Mar eventually moved out of Manila with his new family, keeping in touch by cell phone. Then there were several months when I didn't hear from him, until I got a text from his wife. He had become very ill and had been rushed to San Lazaro. He deteriorated quickly, and in a few days, he was gone.

3 by 5

I thought of Mar and other friends who had died of AIDS as I listened to an official of the World Health Organization on CNN, apologizing for not having reached their 3-by-5 target, meaning getting antiretroviral drugs to 3 million people with HIV by the year 2005. They now have a new target called 10-by-10, meaning 10 million by 2010.

Much has come out in the mass media about these medicines, and I worry that people are being lulled into complacency by these reports. First, people think the medicines are cures. They are not; they only slow the reproduction of HIV. But yes, the drugs do this quite well, prolonging life indefinitely for those with HIV.

Which is why I thought of Mar, wishing he had lived a bit longer to access the medicines. When Mar developed AIDS, his friends offered to get him the drugs. He had refused: once you start on the drugs, you have to stay on them throughout your life, and there was no reassurance the supply would be constant.

Which takes me to my second point: The drugs remain quite expensive, which is why the 3-by-5 program, and now this 10-by-10, will be difficult to implement. The costs have come down, after an upstart Indian manufacturer, Cipla, began to produce some of the medicines. India, at that time, hadn't agreed to process patents. Officials argued that if a company could find its own process for manufacturing a drug, then it should be allowed to do so. Cipla produced the medicines at a fraction of what the multinationals were charging and once its products entered the market, the big companies had to bring down their prices as well.

Prevention

But there's more to all this than drugs. Even if we do get anti-HIV medicines to 10 million people by 2010, I wonder what that would mean in proportion to the number of people with HIV. As of the end of 2005, UNAIDS estimates, we will already have 40 million people with HIV.

What will it be like in 2010? Depends on what we do around prevention. We've lagged far behind in that regard. There's donor fatigue, money being shifted to other public health programs, including preparations for a bird-flu epidemic. Amid that donor fatigue, the Philippines ranks low in priorities because our reported infection rates have been "low and slow." The DOH has now changed that description to "hidden and growing," but frankly, no one seems to really know just how hidden, and what the growth rate is.

I suspect it's growing in all the places we're not looking for. We hear about overseas workers getting infected, and we presume those infected are mainly the seafarers and maybe the "entertainers." Not quite. I've seen the figures and quite a few of those infected are domestic helpers, nurses, teachers. And each infection means massive lost opportunities for entire families. In pensive moments, Mar would tell me, "If I hadn't been infected, I'd be earning $1,500 a month now."

In Mar's time, there was very little in terms of HIV/AIDS education for overseas workers. These workers are a bit luckier now. The government now includes HIV/AIDS lectures in pre-departure orientation seminars but some workers tell me this isn't exactly the best venue for AIDS education since they're so worried and anxious about leaving home.

Hole-y condoms

AIDS awareness needs to begin much earlier, in homes, in schools, even in work places. And that awareness must come bundled together with an understanding of sex, sexuality, gender roles. Mar was always reminding my students about how seafarers pushed fellow seafarers at each port to go to the brothels. Not to go meant you weren't a "real man."

These distorted values don't come from mass media. They're propagated in homes, and later in schools, including seafarer training institutions. And there's little being done to correct this situation. When there are attempts to introduce values education around sexuality, as we're doing in UP, conservatives protest. You shouldn't talk about sex in classrooms, they claim. Sure, so let's leave it to mass media, to street talk. And to macho seafarer talk, the men egging each other into the brothels, and scoffing at condoms. Mar told me, too, how some seafarers would claim condoms were useless, that they have holes through which the AIDS virus could pass.

Guess where they picked up such misinformation? The self-appointed guardians of morality rail against talking about sex in schools, yet they do that all the time, in schools, in mass media, even on the pulpit, spreading these hole-y claims about condoms. That's going to mean more people getting HIV, and for whom the 3-by-5 and 10-by-10 programs will mean nothing, absolutely nothing.

Affront to the electorate

THE ELECTORATE SHOULD BE asked in a referendum if it wants Charter change. This referendum should be conducted not earlier than 2008 or two years before the end of the presidential term. If the electorate favors a constitutional revision, it should be a constitutional convention which should draft the proposed amendments. The delegates to that body should be elected by the people.

This early, the members of Speaker Jose de Venecia's Rainbow Coalition are arrogating unto themselves the task of drafting the proposed changes without the consent of the electorate and the Senate. I cannot imagine how they can do the job as a Constituent Assembly without the participation of the Senate.

The President, for her part, has created the Consultative Committee to assist the House of Representatives. The committee, whose members are for a shift from the unitary presidential system to a federal parliamentary system, wasted no time in adopting the parliamentary system. Now, it is selling the idea of a parliamentary system to people in the provinces.

The administration is putting the cart before the horse! These moves of the President and the Speaker violate the Constitution. They are an affront to the electorate.

Former President Fidel Ramos and De Venecia are the prime movers in the campaign for a shift to a federal parliamentary system. Their plan is to have the parliament in place by the year 2007 so De Venecia can become the prime minister. It follows that Ms Arroyo will have to step down as president to give way to De Venecia. This will provide a graceful exit for the President. At the same time, De Venecia will realize his dream of taking power as the highest public official of the land. It may be recalled that he ran for president in the past but lost.

It is wrong to change the Constitution and the system of government just to provide a graceful exit for a beleaguered President. It is also wrong to undertake these changes to satisfy the ambition of a man. It is also wrong to establish a federal system just to further entrench in power the country's political dynasties.

—APOLONIO G. RAMOS,
42 Mindanao St.,
Marikina City

Gains of the student movement in peril at UP

THIS IS IN REACTION TO WINNIE Monsod's Nov. 26 column.

Martial rule temporarily silenced student activism in the campus. When student organizations, publications and councils were finally established, they closed ranks to protect their gains and advance their rights and welfare. This is what underpinned the national alliance of UP student councils or the Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral sa UP (Kasama sa UP).

We contend that good academic standing should not be a requirement for student regent nomination because it mistakenly measures leadership by academic performance. This is not to disparage academic excellence, but the requirement is often used to denigrate student leadership. More than assuming that good academic standing is a precondition to good leadership, the proposal imposes, by cleverly hiding under technicality, administrative intervention in what must be a purely student affair.

Kasama sa UP was, is, and will always be part of the history of the Office of the Student Regent. To erase it from the Codified Rules for Student Regent Selection is to formalize its removal from a formal process.

The desire to let go of the alliance is a bias to rewrite student representation from the viewpoint of those against Kasama sa UP. When we forged an alliance with Monsod against former President Joseph Estrada, it was clear that we united against graft and corruption, against fascism, against tyranny, against evil. But it was foul when Monsod defended those against Kasama sa UP, whatever her reasons. Foul, not only because she was not there but also because she echoed an opinion without listening to the opposite side.

Foul, because the Philippine Collegian, in the most opportunistic way, propagated a perspective diametrically opposed to student rights and welfare. Ask not the *tibaks* (activists) but the English department and the numerous writers' organizations (not discounting many individuals) what their views of the Philippine Collegian are. Foul, because it was treacherous.

We will defend the gains of the student movement to the very end!

—SHAHANA ABDULWAHID,
chair, Kasama sa UP,
shahana_a@hotmail.com

A warning from Hitler

THE OTHER DAY, I WAS WATCHING a television series about the rise of Adolf Hitler, the most evil man of the 20th century. He was portrayed as a man who was evil to the core, yet was able to convince a nation to do whatever he said. It is probably hard to believe that an evil man could rise to great heights in government without the people knowing his true color.

Good men did see and a few of them did herald the evil that was before them. But the majority of the German people did nothing and just went on with their usual business. Before long, Hitler was well in control of Germany.

Now we have a citizenry that I believe is in a similar mind-set. We are allowing evil people to run amok and step on us. Yes, we look and, perhaps, even talk about them, but after that we just go our own way.

Today, we are reminded of the quotation: "The only thing necessary for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing."

—MARK ANTHONY LEE,
Singapore,
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Media fanning unrest

A news scene reheated by the reappearance of Virgilio Garcillano locates the media at the center of many recent reader comments:

NOW THAT (VIRGILIO) GARCILLANO has reappeared, everybody's on fire yet again, making ridiculous statements, preempting what he has to say. I am addressing this call particularly to both politicians and media: Please stop making up stories. You're supposed to present the facts, not speculations.—**Doris Taylor, doristaylor@csloxinfo.com**

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VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I couldn't agree more with Conrad de Quiros: what administration officials are trying to pull off is just gimmickry of the highest order. They must think that the people are stupid and that they will take all these tales Garcillano is telling the media now.—**Henry Dioneda, Henry.Dioneda@dnv.com**

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In my opinion the Gloriagate crisis is being fanned only by the minority and those media outlets that are only concerned with selling their news, without regard for the real truth. Who are they to say that they have a monopoly of truth?

The problem with the members of the opposition is that they often blame the administration for their failures. They don't have a solid stand, and that's why they're weak. As for the media, they should stop being selective in reporting the news. It's not all bad news in government. Media should do more research in their news gathering. How can (they) practice press freedom when they are doing it irresponsibly?—**Antonio Barrameda, Antonio_Barrameda@splwg.com**

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The opposition party or parties and the media working together are essential as a check and balance to ensure that there is a working and honest democratic government. Nothing can prove better how the process works than the well-oiled machine of our system here in Canada. Usually the media expose the excesses and irregularities in government and opposition parties grill and question government officials about such accusations.

Responsible media do not make a circus out of a crisis, but lay out the facts for their readers and the voters to base their actions and decisions with regard to their elected leaders or public servants. And the opposition parties or leaders use the resources provided for the purpose to investigate and gather all the facts and proceed according to due process.—**Victor Anino Sanoy, Toronto, Canada**

***

What we hear, watch and read in the media are all political and bad news. Look what happened, after so many investigations of corruption were broadcast live. Nothing. I think such things should not be given exposure on television and it only projects our image as a country of crooks. This corruption thing is magnified but nobody is put in jail.

Politicians and media complain, complain and complain, but 90 percent of Filipinos don't complain. They're busy looking for food.—**Godo Arago, Vernon, California 90058**

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EVENTS:
1. December 3 (Saturday) 1pm
Robinsons Plaza Arayat Atrium
OPENING CEREMONIES:
- Presentation of participants/sponsors
- Ribbon Cutting
- Sinukwan Photo Contest and Exhibit
- Pyestang Kapampangan (Food & Craft Showcase)

2. December 4 (Sunday) 4pm
Robinsons Plaza Arayat Atrium
KAPAMPANGAN CULTURAL SHOW:
- Sunis at Terak
- Gayak at Piblas

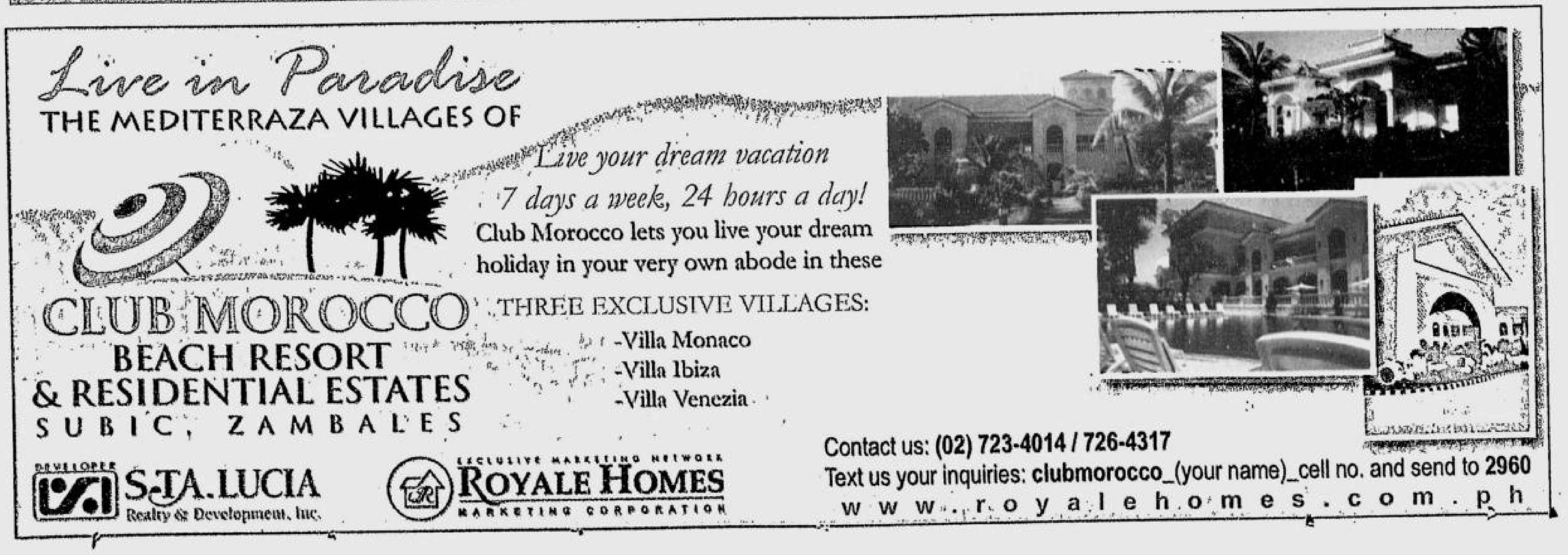
3. December 5 (Monday) 4pm
Robinsons Plaza Arayat Atrium
LUTONG KAPAMPANGAN:
- Demo
- Contest

4. December 6 (Tuesday) 5pm
Robinsons Plaza Arayat Atrium
KAPAMPANGAN SINGING CONTEST:
- Sapatya
- Original Kapampangan Music (OKM)

5. December 7 (Wednesday) 5pm
Robinsons Plaza Arayat Atrium
KAPAMPANGAN SERENATA:
- Banda 919, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
- Banda 14, Baliwag, Bulacan

6. December 8 (Thursday) 5pm
Robinsons Plaza Arayat Atrium
LIGLIGAN SINUKWAN 2005:
- Lakan
- Mutya

7. December 9 (Friday) 1pm
Robinsons San Fernando Gate Parking Area
SINUKWAN STREET DANCE 2005:
- Kite-Flying Exhibition
- Street Dancing Competition
- Band Competition
- Lahar Float Contest
- Traditional Dance Competition
- Creative Dance Competition
- Band Concert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Across the NATION

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RP wins int'l award as best mining site

By Norman Bordadora and Blanche S. Rivera

THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN CITED BY THE INTERnational mining and investments community as the best place to invest in mining for 2005 despite the recent accidents that hit at least two major mines in the country.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday announced the Philippines' winning of this year's country award during the Mines and Money World Congress in London.

The congress was attended by 1,200 industry leaders from 120 countries involved in mining.

"(The award shows) the Philippines has shown a significant improvement in investor sentiment in the past year stemming from the decision at the end of 2004 by the Philippine Supreme Court to reverse its earlier decision concerning financial and technical assistance agreements," said Defensor, who accepted the award on the country's behalf.

"(The congress also found that) the country has also improved streamlining of government bureaucracy, a policy shift from tolerance to active promotion of sustainable development and the revitalization of the minerals industry and promotion of responsible mining and best practice," he added.

In Legazpi City, business leaders urged Australian firm Lafayette Mining Ltd. to secure an ISO certification before resuming operations that were suspended as a result of two mine spills.

Members of the Albay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which has supported Lafayette's investment in the province, said only an international testament to the health and safety of the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project could remove the distrust triggered by the spills.

"They should get an ISO certification because the ISO is the most credible organization internationally. The ISO has higher standards not only for the mine site but for the employment benefits and other aspects of the project as well," ACCI director Glen Lee said yesterday.

The ISO 14001 is a standard that considers strict compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and a monitored commitment to continuing improvement as its minimum requirement.

The Padcal Mine in Benguet, operated by Philex Mines, is the first copper-gold mining company in the Philippines to have acquired an ISO certification for its environmental management system.

If Lafayette could not get that ISO certification, it would do well to stop its operations because the people of Albay would not believe that it can preserve the environment while doing open-pit mining, Lee said.

The Philippines competed for the mining award against six countries—Angola, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mongolia and Zamboa for the country award. Previous winners of the country award include Armenia in 2003 and Sierra Leone in 2004.

"This is the most prestigious award in the natural resources sector. It's like the Oscars of Hollywood, like the Famas of the local movie industry," Defensor said.

"The mining industry will ... lift the country to economic recovery. It will be the flagship industry to generate revenues for the country, investments, and development of the upland communities," he added.

The awards are given to achievers in the international mining industry and are organized by Mining Communications, publisher of the Mining Journal. The publication is the "world's leading and most authoritative weekly mining newspaper."

"It's a stamp of approval from the international mining and investments community. It's a signal of the right climate and the right environment (to invest in the Philippine mining industry)," said Philip Romualdez, president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines.

Romualdez said more than 100 countries compete for investments in their respective mining sectors.

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Fight Diabetes

FIRST UPDATE: ASEAN DIABETES EDUCATORS
Dec. 7, 2005 - Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
"PEARLS OF WISDOM... On Which DIABETES EDUCATORS Can Live By"

ASEAN DIABETES EDUCATORS 1994

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Bangkok, Thailand

SIDARTAWAN SOEGONDO, M.D.
Professor of Endocrinology
Department of Medicine
School of Medicine
University of Indonesia
Jakarta, Indonesia

7:00 - 8:00 Registration

8:00 - 8:15 Welcome
The ASEAN Diabetes Educators — Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua, Dr. Thep Himathongkam, Prof. Dato' Mustaffa Embong, Dr. Sidartawan Soegondo

8:15 - 9:15 *Pearls on Diet Management*
Chairman — Ms. Imelda Q. Cardiño
The Glycemic Index: Its Evolving Use in DM Management, Basic CHO Counting, Low CHO Diets — Dr. Sri Soekmaniah, Indonesia
The ASEAN Diet in DM Control, National Diets, Myths and Diets Fads, Omega 3: Does it have a place? — Ms. Hermine Jeremiah, Malaysia

9:15 - 9:45 *Break and Booth Visits*

9:45 - 10:45 *Pearls on Obesity and DM*
Chairman: — Dr. Francis Pasaporte
Terror Alert: Childhood Obesity Epidemic: Can Des Help? — Dr. Siokson Chan Cua, Philippines
The Metabolic Syndrome: What DEs need to know about its Pathophysiology — Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua, Philippines

10:45 - 11:45 *Pearls on Behavior Changes*
Chairman: — Dr. Richard Elwyn Fernando
Reining in the Stress Monster — Dr. Ma. Theresa G. Villasor, Philippines
Behavior Science in DM At Individual & Community Level — Prof. Dato' Anuar Zaini, Malaysia

11:45 - 12:15 Where are the ASEAN Diabetes Educators Today (Panel Discussion) — Ms. Betty Kek, Singapore
Chairman: — Dr. Tommy Ty Willing

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch and Guest Lecture
Chairman: — Dr. Teresa Plata Que
Global Consensus on Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose in Type 2 DM — Dr. Darryl Nomura, USA

1:30 - 3:00 *Pearls on Diabetes Complications*
Chairman: — Dr. Leorino Sobrepena
Diabetes and Osteoporosis — Dr. Pradana Soewondo, Indonesia
Gestational DM: New Insights, New Diagnostic Criteria and other Recommendations from HAPO Study — Dr. Chaicharn Deerochanawong, Thailand
The Female and Diabetes, Sexual Dysfunction, Menopause — Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, Philippines

3:00 - 3:30 *Break and Booth Visits*

3:30 - 4:30 *Pearls on Therapeutic Innovations*
Chairman: — Dr. Cynthia Halili-Manabat
Intensive Insulin Therapy in the Critically Ill — Dr. John Vincent Flores, Singapore
New Therapy: Incretins — Prof Dato' Mustaffa Embong, Malaysia

4:30 - 4:55 *Concluding Lecture*
Chairman: — Dr. Honolina Gomez
From Ivory Tower to Grassroots: How to apply knowledge to reach the critical base of patient care — DR. Thep Himathongkam, Thailand

4:55 - 5:00 Closing Remarks — Dr. Roberto Mirasol, President, AFES

Sessions will start promptly

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More cops sent to guard cell sites vs rebel attacks

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Police increased security in four major cell sites in Cavite following intelligence reports that communist rebels were planning to attack the installations to force telecommunications companies to pay the rebels' demand for taxes.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police chief, said police received information that several units of the New People's Army from Batangas, Cavite and Mindoro were on a mission to sabotage the operations of cell sites owned by Globe Telecommunications in Cavite.

The sites are in Barangay Dulong Bayan, Bacoor; Barangay Banka, Carmona; Barangay Hugo Perez, Trece Martires and Barangay Amuyong, Alfonso.

Versoza said the information came from three NPA rebels belonging to the Rizal-based Narciso Antazo Aramil Command who were recently captured in a military operation.

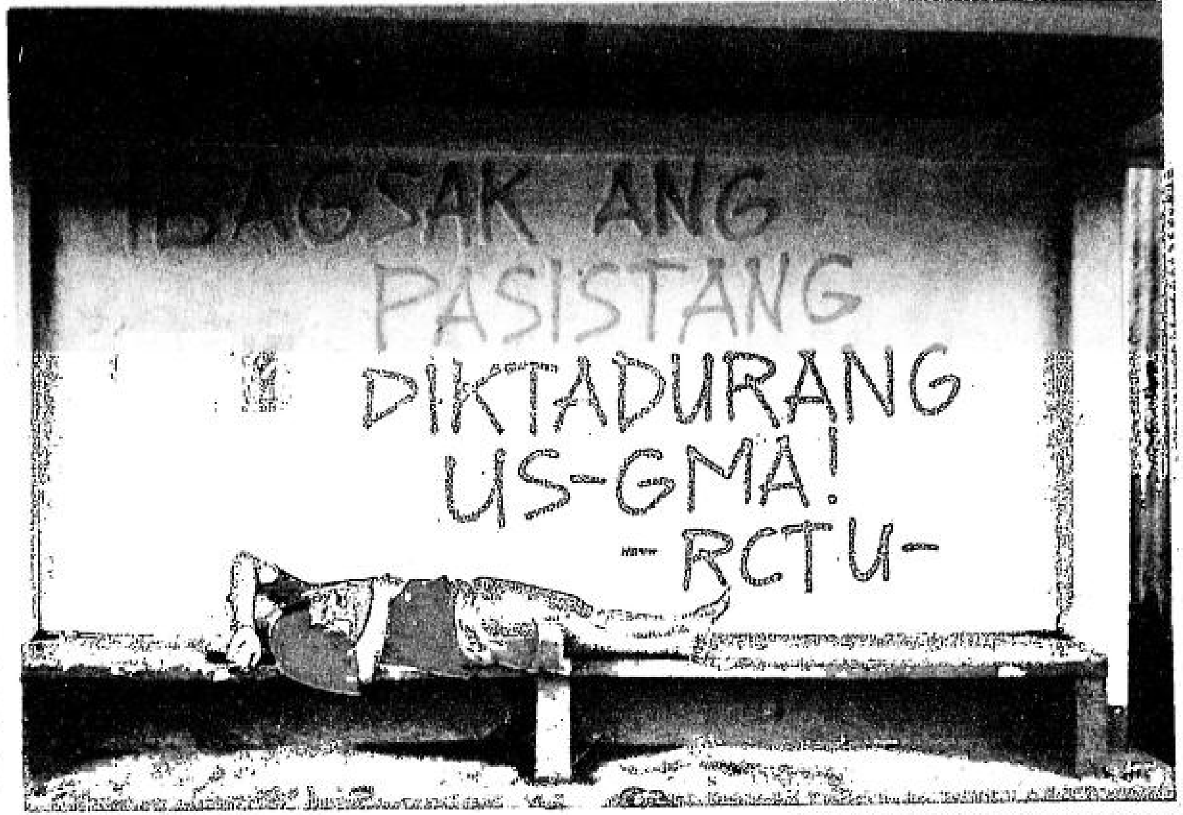
Versoza said police are on heightened alert just in case fighting between government soldiers and communist rebels in Quezon province spills over to other provinces in the Calabarzon area.

"Although there are indications that the fight might spill over to other areas, we have successfully contained the rebels in Quezon," said Versoza.

He said Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes had ordered all local government officials to coordinate closely with the local police and Army units to secure vital installations, particularly cell sites.

He said the cooperation of the local officials is very important in maintaining peace and order in the region.

Verzosa said a policeman was killed while six others were wounded in continuing clashes between government troopers and NPA rebels in the past two weeks. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

HO HUM
An unidentified man falls asleep in a concrete bench beside graffiti pronouncing the continuing war being waged by communist rebels for a socialist regime.

Vessel caught in Tubbataha Reef released

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—BY A MERE AFFIDAVIT and without a valid court order, a Philippine Navy Task Force commander released from custody a fishing vessel and the Taiwanese and Filipino crewmembers who were caught fishing inside the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park.

Park manager Angelique Morato-Songco said she was surprised about the release, which she only learned from the media on Tuesday morning.

She found out that Naval Forces West (Navforwest) Task Force 41 commander Benjamin Pizar released the crewmen and the vessel on Nov. 25 without her knowing.

Songco, representing her office, filed cases of violation of the revised penal code for corruption of public officials and violation of Sec. 104 (employment of unlicensed fish workers), Sec. 20 (entering, hunting, gathering wildlife in marine reserve), and Sec. 96 (entering a marine sanctuary) of the Philippine Fisheries Code.

According to Songco, the MV Teresita II, owned by Teresita Lai based in Subic, Zambales, was caught inside the Tubbataha, a Unesco world heritage site, on Nov. 14. Park rangers found about 1.5 tons of pelagic fish.

During the apprehension, the crewmen offered the rangers 12,000 NT dollars (Taiwan) and P11,000. This was more or less P39,000.

When they were brought to Puerto Princesa, the crewmen again offered some money to the Philippine Navy.

In an exclusive interview with Pizar, the task force commander said he was made to believe that the affidavit of undertaking from the owner of the vessel was proof enough to release the vessel.

He said the typewritten affidavit, executed by Lai in Subic on Nov. 25, the day the vessel was released, was shown to him by one staff member of the businesswoman but he was not able to get the name or the contact number.

"I had no time to check if there was a valid court order because it was already late in the afternoon and it was Friday," he said.

He also feared that if he wouldn't release the crewmen, who had already posted bail, and the vessel, the owner would sue him.

Songco said Pizar should have informed her of the release because she was the complainant. When she verified if the court issued a release order, Songco said there was indeed none.

"We're all learning and some of our lessons are very expensive, like this one," Songco said, adding that she believed that the release was in good faith but she was saddened by the fact that it happened because rangers and apprehending officers are sacrificing, away from their families and in the middle of the ocean, just to guard the Philippine seas.

She is optimistic that Philippine authorities would rearrest the vessel in Subic because they were in effect "deceived" by the owner by presenting a piece of paper. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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A PILE of yacon at the Baguio public market.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Group says Samar folk back antilogging drive

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE EFFORT TO PROTECT and conserve the remaining forests of Samar Island has the support of most residents of the country's third largest island, which is rich in biodiversity.

Jose "Don" Mabulay Jr., co-manager of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) based in Catbalogan town, Samar, issued the statement in reaction to the earlier claim of Napoleon Poblador, San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC) legal counsel, that the antilogging effort "does not represent the true sentiment" of the Samarnons.

Mabulay said the Samarnons support the local environmentalists and the priests who are in the forefront of efforts to save the 333,300-hectare natural park on the island from logging and mining activities.

The Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) is now being threatened by logging after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) lifted the 16-year logging moratorium when it allowed the SJTC to resume operation and extended its permit by 16 years.

Mabulay said the SINP's establishment went through a process of consultation and majority of the people supported the creation of the natural park to protect and conserve the remaining forest.

He added that since then and until now, the clamor of the people of the three provinces of Samar Island—Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar—is still to save the forests.

"Actually the pro-SINP sentiment was started with the floods of 1989 with the people clamoring for a logging moratorium," said Mabulay.

The floods killed about 100 people.

Camote-like root crop becoming a Baguio hit

BAGUIO CITY—ONE CAN SEE them in any alley of the Baguio market. This root crop has become so ubiquitous that anyone may ignore it.

It looks like a dark *camote* (sweet potato) but it is twice as expensive at P40 a kilogram. It is known as *yacon* and it is now one of the hottest-selling root crops at the Baguio City market.

Andrea Pedro, a vendor, said she gets her *yacon* from Nueva Vizcaya and Buguias, Benguet.

"A month ago, I was selling 10 kg a day. Now, because there are many of us (vendors), I only sell 3 kg," she said.

She advertises her *yacon* by telling potential buyers that it is anti-cancer, anti-diabetes and good for the digestive system.

Yacon is eaten raw and tastes like a sweet and tarty *singkamas* (turnip). It is a traditional crop in Peru and has been cultivated in New Zealand and Japan.

James, a farmer from Sayangan, Benguet, and who sells *yacon* tubers for P10, said the crop was introduced to the Philippines by a Japanese farmer in Cagayan Valley.

Nueva Vizcaya is said to be the biggest producer of *yacon*. In 2003, *yacon* was sold in the country for as high as P120 a kg.

James said a Benguet farmer introduced *yacon* in the province last year and the first harvests were sold to the Good Shepherd Convent here.

"Plant it in a previously ungrown area. Use compost and no commercial fertilizer or pesticide as this will disturb its medicinal values," he said.

According to the Lima, Peru-based International Potato Center (IPC), *yacon* is packed with oligofructose, which cannot be absorbed by the body. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MILF gets credit for kidnappers' arrests

MIDSAYAP, NORTH Cotabato—At least three suspected kidnappers were arrested here Wednesday due to information provided by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said yesterday.

Piñol said Mike Candao Tan and Ting Sainudin; both of Cotabato City and Faisal Guialoson Mama, 28, of this town were believed to be members of the group that snatched engineer Bravick Araral.

Araral, 69, and a resident of Parang, Maguindanao, was on his way to his farm in nearby Libungan when abducted at gunpoint on Nov. 21.

Piñol said the MILF's Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, led by lawyer Abdul Dataya, informed police operatives and intelligence operatives of the Army's 6th Infantry Division that a pay-off for Araral's freedom had been set in Barangay Poblacion 6 here.

After receiving the report, he said the police and the military immediately organized a raiding team and cordoned off the area.

The raiding team found the suspects and arrested them without encountering any resistance, according to Piñol.

He said the raiding team also recovered Araral's clothes and cash amounting to P114,000 from the three suspects but there was no sight of the victim.

It was not clear whether or not the cash was part of the P10 million ransom the suspects had demanded from the victim's family. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Never lose hope despite illness

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So far, research have shown that Xanthones possess antioxidant, antibacterial, anti-fungal, and anti-tumor activity and laboratory tests have indicated that extracts of mangosteen have activity against several cancer cell lines including breast, liver, and leukemia.

Many other Xanthone Juice users like General Tangapa have attested to the benefits of regular dosage of the product that helped them overcome various minor and major ailments.

To learn more about the benefits of Xanthone Juice, you can log on to www.xanthonejuice.com or contact its Cebu office at (32) 2336570 or Evelina Panuncillo at (0919) 6591377 and Sam Lim (0919) 8312549.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2005

CAVITE (SILANG)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SILANG 33WS

Portion of Silang Bypass Road and Aguinaldo Highway from near Riviera Golf and Country Club to near Governor Drive including Unipros Ceramics

REASON: Upgrading of facilities inside Meralco Silang substation

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 40F AND 26F

Portion of Araneta Ave. from Meralco-Sta.Mesa substation to E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. including New San Jose Builders Inc., Araneta Village and portion of Bgys. Doña Josefa and Doña Imelda.

New Manila Rolling Hills Subd.. (Magdalena Rolling Hills Subd) , Bgy. Damayan Lagi, Trinity College of Quezon City and National Children's Hospital.

Along B. M. A. Ave. (Ampiro) from E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. to and including Kaliraya, Victory Sts. (Lubluban) and Agno Ext. Ave. in Bgy. Tatalon.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 40F AND 26F

Portion of E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. from near Araneta Ave. to near Sta. Cecilia St. including Bgy. Kalusugan, Damayan Lagi, Violago Cathedral Heigths Subd., Delos Santos Hospital and Walter Mart in New Manila.

REASON: Various maintenance work along E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. in Quezon City.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS TANZA 32ZW AND TERNATE 31ZO

The whole town of Magallanes

Bgys. Kaylangis and Mabilog in Maragondon.

Bgys. Goyong-goyo, Dalusan, Kapaaba, Tabora, Ballen, Castaños and Caymisas in Gen. Aguinaldo.

Bgys. Halang, Palangue-1, Palangue-3, Silangan Ibayo, Munting Mapino, Medicare Community Hospital and Naic Ice Plant and Cold Storage in Naic.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TERNATE 41TN AND 32ZO, PUERTO AZUL 32XX AND 33XX AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERNATE 31ZO

The whole of Ternate including Marbella Resort, Puerto Azul Beach Resort and Country Club, Ocean View Villas, Caysubic Cottages and Paniman Resorts.

The whole of Maragondon except Bgys. Kaylangis and Mabilog.

Bgys. Muzon, San Roque, Molino and Malainen in Naic.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Dasmariñas – FCIE – TMC II – Ternate 115 kV transmission lines

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 - 7, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE., 12/06/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (WED., 12/07/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT ROCKWELL 415-416VV

Portion of Amapola, Aquarius, Hydra and Paseo de Roxas Sts. from Meralco-Rockwell substation to Jupiter St. including Aries, Mars, Mercury, Vulcan and portion of Polaris Sts. in Bel-Air 1 Village, Bgy. Bel-Air.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 12/06/05) AND 6:30AM (WED., 12/07/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS ROCKWELL 415-416VV; AND URDANETA 54VS

Portion of Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. (Buendia) from Paseo de Roxas to Makati Ave. including Development Bank of the Phils., Metrobank Plaza, LC Bldg., National Steel Corp., Equitable Bank Bldg., Saville Bldg., Board of Investments, Saudi Arabian Embassy Bldg. and Alco Bldg. (Napolcom) in Roxas Triangle, Bgy. Urdaneta.

Portion of Paseo de Roxas from near Jupiter St. to near Real St. including both feeds of The Manila Mandarin Hotel and One Roxas Triangle Tower in Roxas Triangle, Bgy. Urdaneta.

Portion of Jupiter St. from Paseo de Roxas to near Mercury St. including Omni Savings Bank, Kaya Restaurant and National Life Insurance Co. in Bel-Air 1 Village, Bgy. Bel-Air

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Paseo de Roxas in Roxas Triangle, Bgy. Urdaneta, Makati City.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005

QUEZON PROVINCE

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 42ZY

Along National Road from near Villa Lopez to and including Bgy. Ibabang Iyam, Isabang, Lourdes Subd., Immaculada Concepcion Village, Ciudad Maharlika, Better Living Subd., Puerto Del Mar Subd., Unidico Consolidated, Alana Motors, Hermana Fausta Subd., JNL Oil Industries, Fabristeel Int'l Service Inc. in Lucena; Sta. Isabel Village, Wellman Ville, Maharlika Highway and Bgy. Calumpang.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 7:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 42ZY

Portion of National Road from Bo. Iyam to Gen. Lucban Road including Bgy. Ibabang Talim, Rodriguez Park, Quezon National High School, Jael Subd., Torres Subd., Pleasantville Subd., Pleasantville Phase II, Rosario Village, Bgys. Ilayang Iyam and Ibabang Iyam.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along National Highway in Bgy. Iyam, Lucena City, Quezon Province.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 - 9, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU.,12/08/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (FRI.,12/09/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 416VJ AND URDANETA 43VS

Portion of Dela Rosa St. from Gil St. to Legaspi St. including Bankers' Centre, National Life Insurance Bldg. (Sikatuna Bldg.), SGV I Bldg., SGV II Bldg., Bankmer Bldg., Genbancor Condominium, Allied Bank Center, PLDT – Ramon Cojuangco Bldg. and one-feed of PLDT – Main Bldg. in Legaspi Village

Along Legaspi St. from Paseo de Roxas to and including Greenbelt Mall, Greenbelt Mall Arcade, Tokyo Tokyo, Starbucks, Via Mare, Wendy's, Burger King, National Bookstore and Max's in Legaspi Village

Portion of Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) from Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (Southbound Side) to near Amorsolo St. including New World Hotel, The Landmark, Anson Emporium, Jacinta Bldg., Gilligan's Island, North Park Noodles, Max's Restaurant, Gerry's Bar & Grill, W Food Corp., Milky Way Restaurant, El Cielito Tourist Inn, Congo Grill, Crown Prince Court Bldg., Cable Car Corp., First Stars Venue and Balanga Mercantile Properties in Ayala Center.

Portion of Paseo de Roxas from Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) to Dela Rosa St. including Asian Institute of Management (AIM), AIM – Acceed Bldg. and Makati Business Club in Legaspi Village.

Portion of Benavidez St. from Paseo de Roxas to Salcedo St. including Dominion Bldg., Corporate Business Center and Asia Tower in Legaspi Village

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 12/08/05) AND 6:30AM (FRI., 12/09/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 416VJ AND URDANETA 43VS AND 51VS

Portion of Gamboa St. from near Paseo de Roxas to near Adelantado St. including Asian Reinsurance Bldg., Prudential Life Plan Bldg., BA Finance Bldg., Pura Kalaw – Ledesma Condominium and Corinthian Plaza in Legaspi Village.

Along Jimenez St. from Trasierra St. to Salcedo St. including Concorde Condominium in Legaspi Village.

Along Soria St. from Trasierra St. to Salcedo St. including Republic Glass Bldg., All Seasons Realty, B & M Bldg. # 2 and Regina Bldg. in Legaspi Village.

Along Trasierra St. from Benavidez St. to near Legaspi St. in Legaspi Village.

REASON: Installation of overhead static wires and reconstruction of facilities along Gamboa and Trasierra Sts. in Legaspi Village, Makati City in preparation for the new feeder circuits from the new Meralco Legaspi substation.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SILANG 33WS AND TAGAYTAY 36XS

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Tagaytay substation to near GMA National Road including Dragon Textile Mills and Unipros Ceramics in Silang

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SILANG 32WS, 34WS AND 36WS AND TAGAYTAY 32XS, 33XS, 34XS AND 35XS

The whole of Tagaytay City, Alfonso, Amadeo and Mendez.

The whole town of Silang except Bgys. Maguyam, Bulihan and Milagrosa.

Bgys. Karasutsi and Pilipit in Indang.

Bgy. Pulo Ni Sara in Maragondon.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Dasmariñas – Silang – Tagaytay 115 kV transmission lines.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ROCKWELL 442VV

Major portion of Guadalupe Viejo including Gumamela, Rosal, Jasmin, Camia, Coronado, Gonzales, Bernardino, Progreso, Progreso I and Progreso II Sts.

Portions of J. P. Rizal St. and EDSA from Estrella St. to near and including San Carlos Seminary, MRT – Guadalupe Station, New Zealand Creamery, Caltex, one – feed of Colgate – Palmolive Phils., Loyola Memorial Chapels, Makati Youth Center, 7 – 11 and Burger King.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco Rockwell substation.

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 11, 2005

CAVITE

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:15PM (SAT., 12/10/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 5:00AM (SUN., 12/11/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TMC II 43WA AND 45WA AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT ROSARIO 43RS

Portion of Naic-Trece Martirez Highway from Antero Soriano Highway to Gen. Trias-Amadeo Highway including Jea Steel Industries, St. Jude Parochial School in Bgy. Cabuco, Trece Martirez, Metro South Subd., Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Bgy. Manggahan, Gen. Trias; Bgy. Tanauan in Tanza; E. T. Echauz Farm, Ponce Farms, East Asia Paper Mills, Sabang Elem. School, East Asia Netcom Phils. and Bgy. Sabang in Naic.

Portion of Tanza-Trece Martirez Highway from Naic-Trece Martirez Highway to and including Bgy. Hulugan, Immanuel Beach Resort, Sta. Cecilia Subd., Retirees Village in Bgy. Biwas, Bgys. Sta. Mayor, Bega, Punta, Paradahan, Don Crispin M. Yumol Memorial School, Tanza National Trade School in Tanza; and Dela Costa Formation Center in Trece Martirez.

Portion of Gen. Trias-Amadeo Highway from Trece Martirez-Pala-Pala Highway to near Gateway Business Park including Gen. Trias Water District, Tung Tai Hsing Rubber Factory, Ever Stream in Bgy. Manggahan; Governor Hills Subd. and Cityland Green Breeze Village in Bgy. Biklatan, Gen. Trias.

Portion of Antero Soriano Highway from Naic-Trece Martirez Highway to near Mulawin Road including SMC Premium Packaging, Union Glass Factory, Amaya School of Home Industries, Amaya Elem. School, Shin Yee Metal, Lu Chu Industrial Estate, Phil Shin Works, Bgy. Halayhay, Coca-Cola – Tanza Warehouse, F. C. Castro Subd. and Cabba Subd. in Tanza.

Along Magdiwang Highway from Gen. P. Alvarez St. to Daang Bakal including Noveleta Municipal Hall, McDonald's – Noveleta, Noveleta Town Proper, Iglesia Ni Cristo and A. Bonifacio St. in Noveleta.

Along Gen. P. Alvarez and Gen. Antonio Sts. from near Daang Bakal to and including San Antonio Barrio School, Camella Homes – Noveleta, Bo. San Antonio, MWSS, Noveca Industries, AAL Mfg. & Export, Noveleta Municipal High School, Countryside Village Subd., San Miguel, A. Reyes Sts. and Arlantico Subd. in Noveleta.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Dasmariñas – FCIE 115 kV transmission lines.

VALENZUELA CITY, M. M. AND BULACAN (BOCAUE AND MEYCAUAYAN)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (SAT., 12/10/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (SUN., 12/11/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 47YE

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco-Bocaue substation to and including Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., St. Mary's College of Meycauayan, St. Martin Subd., Bgys. Saluysoy, Saog, Pandayan in Meycauayan, Bulacan; Violeta Townhomes, Roxville Subd., Marilao Public Market, Marilao Parish Church, St. Michael Hospital, Constantino Parks Subd., Maria Ramos Village, Villa MonteVerde Subd., Villa Consuelo Subd., Town and Country Homes North Executive Village, Bgys. Ibayo, Nagbalon, Abangan in Marilao; Bgy. Lolomboy, Sto. Cristo Parish Church and Lolomboy High School in Bocaue, Bulacan.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (SAT., 12/10/05) AND 4:30AM (SUN., 12/11/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 47YE

Portion of McArthur Highway from Sampalucan Road to and including Bgy. Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City, Mapalad Subd., Francisco Subd., San Pedro Subd., Meycauayan College, Bgys. Tugatog, Caingin, Banga and Calavario in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

REASON: Relocation of facilities due to DPWH road-widening project along McArthur Highway in Meycauayan, Bulacan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005

BULACAN (BOCAUE)

BETWEEN 12:00NN AND 5:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 424YU

The whole of Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo. Wakas

REASON: Cleaning, replacement and washing of contaminated line devices at Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo. Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.

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Palace last resort: 'Pirma,' if Senate refuses to Cha-cha

From page A1

identified, pointed to statements from House leaders that they could go ahead with Cha-cha without the Senate because the Constitution, in their view, did not specifically say that the two chambers of Congress should vote separately when they convene as a constituent assembly to amend the Charter.

This plan means that the House will try to muster 194 votes, equivalent to three-fourths of the combined number of 236 members of the House and 23 senators, to carry out the amendments.

Political operator

"And there is also the talk about Ronnie Puno going to the DILG," the senator told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that the President was planning to appoint Rizal Rep. Ronaldo Puno, a known political operator who helped in her 2004 election campaign, as secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government. Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes is being offered the coveted post of Philippine ambassador to the United States.

Messy

The senator said that as interior secretary Puno, who also leads the President's political party Kampi in the House, would be put in charge of the people's initiative.

'System of initiative'

The two senators said this option would be "very messy" because there was no law providing for its implementation.

Article 6, Sec. 32 of the Constitution says: "The Congress shall, as early as possible, provide for a system of initiative and referendum, and the exceptions therefrom, whereby the people can directly propose and enact laws or approve or reject any act or law or part thereof passed by Congress or local legislative body after the registration of a petition therefor signed by at least ten per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters thereof."

One of the senators said the Supreme Court had ruled that the people's initiative was still an incomplete law because Congress had yet to promulgate its implementing guidelines.

"They tried it and failed during the Ramos administration," he said, recalling the "Pirma" initiative seen at that time as a move to extend the term of Ramos.

Pedrosa couple

Pirma stands for People's Initiative for Reforms, Modernization and Action, a group founded by Albert and Carmen Pedrosa. *(See timeline above.)*

If Malacañang and the House want to use the people's initiative, the senator said, they would still have to go to Congress to enact the implementing laws.

"They will still need the Senate and I don't think the senators will fall for that," he said.

IN THE KNOW

What's Pirma?

1996

Albert and Carmen Pedrosa found the People's Initiative for Reforms, Modernization and Action (Pirma), which seeks a people's initiative to amend the Constitution and lift the term limits of elected officials, including President Ramos.

DEC. 19: The Supreme Court issues a temporary restraining order to stop Pirma's signature drive. It also bars the Commission on Elections from hearing petitions lifting term limits through a people's initiative. Pirma appeals the decision, but the high court does not budge.

1997

MARCH 19: The high court rules (8-5-2) that there is no enabling law on a people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

APRIL 3: Pirma asks for a reconsideration.

JUNE 10: But the court votes 6-6 (with three abstentions) to "deny with finality" the motion for reconsideration. It says Republic Act No. 6735, the law governing people's initiatives to amend the Constitution, is inadequate. Because of this, Pirma and four other groups file with the Comelec a petition for it to verify the signatures gathered.

JULY 3: Comelec votes unanimously (7-0) against the petition.

JULY 28: Pirma again files a petition with the Supreme Court, asking it to compel the Comelec to act on its petition to verify the signatures, allow the conduct of a people's initiative and conduct a plebiscite to amend the Constitution.

SEPT. 23: The Supreme Court rules the petition is unconstitutional. Pirma again asks for a reconsideration on Oct. 8.

OCT. 14. The court dismisses with finality (13-0, with one justice on leave) Pirma's request. *PDI Research*

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Evangelicals back GMA as transition President

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAJOR GROUP OF LOCAL EVANGELICAL churches is open to the possibility of having President Macapagal-Arroyo as both head of state and of government in preparation for a shift to a federal, parliamentary form of government.

The idea came up during a gathering of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) on proposed Charter amendments at the Asian Theological Seminary in Quezon City yesterday.

The PCEC represents around 20,000 local churches with around 2 million adult members.

PCEC head Bishop Efraim Tendero said one dominant suggestion was to have Ms Arroyo preside over a transition period from 2007 to 2010, assuming that the Constitution would be amended by next year.

"It can be longer or it can be shorter, but it would be within that period of time," he told reporters, referring to the projected transition period.

The proposal would essentially allow Ms Arroyo to complete a six-year term despite serious allegations that she had manipulated the results of the 2004 elections. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Asked how the option would appeal to the public, Tendero said: "We don't know. Right now, it's too early to make the sense of the people. They're still trying to see what the direction of the possible changes is."

Two other options stood out during the discussion among evangelical bishops and local church leaders.

One extreme scenario is to hold all elections in 2010. The other suggested that terms that will expire in 2007 be filled up by an election that year.

Tendero said the PCEC would submit its proposals during a meeting with the Constitutional Commission on Monday.

US need for Filipino animators rising

From page A1

as much as $50 million from worldwide contracts in the coming years.

She spoke during the 4th Mindanao Information Communication Technology (ICT) Congress held recently in General Santos City.

Citing reports from the Department of Trade and Industry, Gopalan said that in 2004, the animation industry in the country registered $40 million in revenue.

"The competitive advantages of Mindanao and the rest of the Philippines in the field of animation are its experience, immense creativity, Western behavioral influences in presenting emotions and high English proficiency [compared to] the competitors from other Asian countries like India and Korea," she said.

5,000 animators

At least 5,000 animators are stationed throughout the country, Gopalan said. Most of them work for top-grossing animation firms, such as Walt Disney, Warner Brothers, HBO, Cartoon Network and Marvel Comics.

Gopalan said many Filipinos, including Nelson Bohol and Gini Cruz who worked as animators for "Finding Nemo," were behind the success of some of the well-loved animated films.

She said the ICT industry had provided employment for thousands of Filipinos and helped boost the national economy.

Investments in IT-enabled services are fast growing in the country and are showing marked success, according to government officials.

"ICT is a dominant factor in Mindanao's development. In fact, the government is already making headway in bridging the digital gap in remote communities by establishing e-centers, bringing Internet access and encouraging private sector investments," Jesus Dureza, chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council, said.

'Ang Kapatiran' party goes to Cebu

ANG KAPATIRAN, A NEW NATIONAL political party, will launch an information and recruitment drive in Cebu City on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stella Maris Seafarers Center, Pier 4, according to Arsenio Abellana, vice president of Ang Kapatiran for Cebu.

Nandy Pacheco and Alex Lacson, founder-president and secretary-general, respectively, of Ang Kapatiran, will lead the information and recruitment drive.

Accredited by the Commission on Elections on May 8, 2004, Ang Kapatiran stands on a platform with clear and specific policy objectives, all aimed at enhancing the common good, promoting the politics of virtue and of duty, and the politics of transparency and accountability. Abellana may be contacted at 09195674851.

GMA allies demand apology from Thais

From page A1

Siriwat. Suwat was to participate in the tradition of passing the flag to the next host country.

In a statement, Ms Arroyo said that "it is everyone's duty to be just and fair" in the games. "We must treasure the solidarity and friendship among the competitors and their respective nations."

The President apparently wants the issue resolved as soon as possible. She is scheduled to meet with Thaksin and other leaders during the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Malaysia on Dec. 11-15.

On Wednesday, Thaksin said he was disappointed over unfair competition, without directly accusing the Philippines of favoring its athletes to win medals. "It's normal to win or lose. But it's not nice if we host such games and do this to other countries," he said. He added that he might raise the issue during the Asean summit.

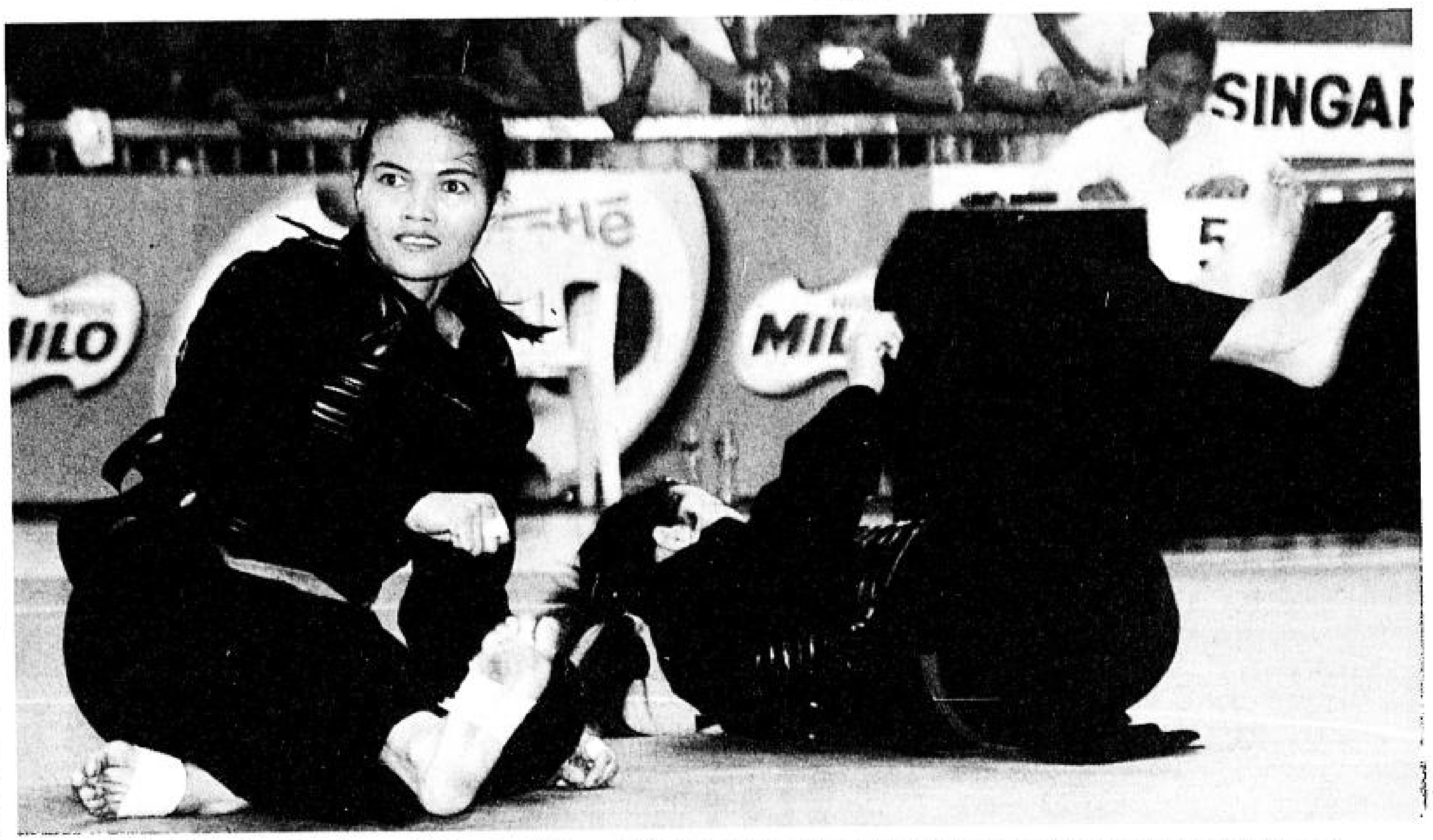
Salceda said that Filipinos should not be surprised by Thaksin's behavior since he had even challenged Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej when he insisted on sacking Thailand's state auditor Jaruwan Mainthaka.

Mainthaka was investigating Thaksin on alleged corrupt business practices but Thaksin fired him even without the required prior clearance from the King.

'Thaksingate'

"After the Philippines copied Thaksinomics, now he is cutting a version of Thaksingate. Misery loves company—scandals are not a monopoly of our country," said Salceda, Ms Arroyo's close economic adviser.

"Moreover, Thai political problems are compelling investor attention to turn to the Philippines," he added.



KICK-OFF. The Philippines' Juvy Jumuad sideswipes Vietnam's Trinh Thi Nga in the pencak silat competition at the Cebu Coliseum on Thursday. LITO TECSON/CDN

Administration Rep. Joel Mayo Almario of Davao Oriental, chair of the House committee on games and amusements, said Thaksin should stop "throwing tantrums," adding that his judgment might have been clouded by his frustration over the performance of Thai athletes.

"But as chief executive, he should have shown the best form of sportsmanship because it embodies diplomacy. Sports is not just a showcase of human character, perseverance and glory. It is an instrument of diplomacy, peace and unity among countries," Almario said.

Two Thai officials apologize

He said that the investigation the President ordered should proceed despite the apologies issued by Gen. Jaruk Areerajakaran, secretary general of the Thailand Olympic Committee, and Chaipak.

Jaruk yesterday denied telling reporters on Wednesday that "it is hard to win at the SEA Games since the hosts are cheating."

SEA Games president Jose Cojuangco Jr. wrote Ms Arroyo yesterday saying Thaksin's statement was "unfortunate." He said that "all the events are officiated in a very transparent manner" by referees from an international pool.

Also yesterday, SEA Games authorities said that at least two Thai aquatics officials had been sanctioned by the international aquatics federation for "shady judging." *(See story in Sports section.)*

'Biased judging' in boxing

Amid the controversy, the first allegation of biased judging surfaced in the boxing ring in Bacolod yesterday after Thailand's defending pinweight champion Kaev Pongprayoon was outpointed by Juanito Magliquian of the Philippines.

"He boxed for four rounds and there were no points," said Thai team manager Chavala Suvannachive of Pongprayoon's loss. "This is clear. This is not a fair contest."

Almario and House Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin said they expected the Philippines to be vindicated and urged Filipino sports officials not to get involved in the investigation to dispel any suspicion of wrongdoing.

"We strongly believe that the truth—that we won fair and square—will come out in any investigation. The issue must be immediately clarified. The victory of our athletes and those of other participating countries were witnessed openly by the public and covered by the media," Salapuddin said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo should summon the Thai ambassador to explain the context of Thaksin's "unfortunate remark," describing it as "the griping of a loser."

"It would not have been so bad if the remarks have been made by someone lower in the bureaucratic hierarchy," said the chair of the Senate foreign relations committee. "But for a head of state to make this kind of remark is highly impolitic."

Thai envoy ouster demanded

The administration senator, who had called Thaksin's behavior "strange," said that unless the ambassador could fully explain the prime minister's comment, he faced the risk of being declared "persona non grata."

Two broadcasters of Manila radio station dzBB sang about Thaksin's "sour-graping."

"Hey Thaksin, you should realize you are just sour-graping. Don't belittle our athletes because they are good," they sang to a lilting folk song.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra said Thaksin should be told that "it's impossible to umpire the games when you're a thousand miles away." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Nikko Dizon, AP, Reuters, AFP*

Rowers keep RP medal drive afloat in SEA Games

From page A1

Gymnast Roel Ramirez scavenged for two golds, judoka Helen Dawa added one and the men's foil team of Ramil Endriano, Rolando Canlas Jr., Emerson Segui and Mark Denver Atienza scooped another, raising the Philippines' tally to 64 as of 8:30 last night. The Filipinos also have a total of 46 silvers and 51 bronzes.

After five days of competition, the Philippine total haul now stands as its second biggest medal harvest in the regional Games. The Filipinos took 91 golds in 1991 when they fell one gold short of the overall championship.

Ramirez ruled the vault and floor exercises at the Rizal Memorial Multi-Purpose Arena while Dawa kept her 45kg crown at the Mandaue Coliseum in Cebu.

The five-gold output yesterday was a far cry from the 20 golds the Filipinos won in Day 2 and 18 in Day 3, but it proved enough to keep them ahead of the Vietnamese and the Thais. Vietnam now has 46 golds, 40 silvers and 50 bronzes while Thailand has a 39-48-62 tally.

Training regimen

Following a strict diet and training regimen, the 32-year-old Tolentino reduced his weight from 82 kg (180 lb) to 72 kg (158 lb).

"I sacrificed and endured a lot to achieve this (victory)," said Tolentino, a grandson of basketball Olympian Mariano Tolentino, who named his daughters Sydney and Athens after the sites of the last two Olympics.

Even the heralded Filipino bowlers were unable to strike gold yesterday, with the men and women trios settling for silvers at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque.

FATHER GETS 3 GOLDS. Benjie Tolentino with his daughter Sydney is quite content with her Gilas stuffed toy, the Philippine Eagle, SEAG mascot given to winning athletes of Team Philippines. JOAN BONDOC

Liza del Rosario, Liza Clutario and Cecilia Yap wasted an 82-pin edge in the last game and yielded the women's crown to the Indonesian trio, 4060-3988, despite Yap's perfect game, only the second recorded in the SEA Games.

The men's team of Chester King , CJ Suarez and Ernesto "Joonee" Gatchalian bowed to their Malaysian counterparts, 4112-4020, in the finals.

Over in Bacolod, however, seven Filipinos boxers have advanced to the finals. Pinweight Juanito Magliquian led the charge when he bested Thai Keanuv Pangpayoon, 37-25, last night. Other finalists were featherweight Don Joegen Ladon, light welterweight Romeo Brin, middleweight Reynaldo Galido, pinweight Alice Kate Aparri, bantam Jouveliet Chilem and flyweight Annie Albania.

Filipino Alessandra Araullo allowed Malaysian Kimbeley Yap Fui Li to pull away in the 1.5-km swim and failed to cover lost ground in the 10-km run and 40-km cycling events to settle for the silver medal in women's triathlon at the Subic Bay Freeport.

The 24-year-old Araullo, a physics instructor from the University of the Philippines, clocked 2 hours, 15 minutes and 59 seconds. Li, a former national swimmer who took up the lung-busting event only in April, won in 2:14:39.

Singaporean Ng Xinyi Alisa finished in 2:21:57 to snatch the bronze from Filipino Ani Karina de Leon, who was hit by leg cramps in the first lap of the 10-km run.

Softball

In softball, the Philippines revved up its drive for the gold as it scored back-to-back shutout wins against Thailand and Indonesia at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The RP Blu Girls, who topped the event the last time it was held in 1997, battered Thailand, 8-0, in seven innings.

CASUALTY of pencak silat, Adzhar N. Abdurasad of Team Philippines, is carried out on a stretcher after he was hit allegedly by an illegal kick in the jaw by Vietnam's Le Ahn Tuan. LITO TECSON/CDN

Not to be outdone, the Blu Boys scored their second-straight victory at the expense of the Malaysians, 7-0.

World-ranked Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino hurdled their respective foes to crash into the semifinals of the singles and doubles events of tennis at the Rizal Memorial hardcourts.

Mamiit routed Vivongsay Vongsouthi of Laos, 6-0, 6-0, while Taino followed suit with a 6-1, 6-0 thumping of Indonesian Sunu Wahy Trijati.

Fil-Ams

Fil-Americans Riza Angela Zalameda and Denise Dy later ripped the Su Wai Phyo-Kyi Mya Zaw team from Burma (Myanmar), 6-0, 6-0, to move into the women's doubles semifinals.

Mamiit and Taino showed they are better as a team, trouncing the Udomchoke-Weerapat Doakmailee tandem, 6-2, 6-3, for a seat in the doubles semis against Simpatiaji-Trijati of Indonesia.

Johnny Arcilla and Patrick John Tierro were not as fortunate as the homegrown pair yielded to the veteran Indon combine of Suwandi Suwandi and Bonit Wiryawan, 6-3, 4-6, 3-6.

The Filipino netters, however, have surpassed their one bronze in Vietnam two years ago, with the men's team winning their event for the first time on Monday.

In beach volleyball, the Philippines sent all of its four entries to the quarterfinals at the St. La Salle sand field in Bacolod City.

Filipino-American Justin Schonor overcame a bum stomach to power his partnership with Chad Mowrey past Cambodians Koung Sopheap and Som Cham Nap.

But the tandem of Parley Tupaz and Rhovyl Verayo continued to struggle, absorbing an 11-21, 14-21 beating from Busan Asian Games silver medalists Koko Prasetyo Darkuncoro and Agus Salim of Indonesia.

Tupaz and Verayo suffered their second loss but still qualified for the men's last eight, just like Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena in the women's pool A.

Advancing RP pair

Also advancing was the pair of Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua, who routed Luk Ten Eng and Beh Shun Ting of Malaysia for their second straight win in Pool B.

A total of 43 gold medals will be at stake today, including six in swimming at the Trace Aquatics center in Los Baños, Laguna, and five in traditional boat race at the La Mesa Dam.

GMA is usual suspect behind SEAG's cheating suspicions

From page A1

meaning. Pity the Filipinos. What is gold if it doesn't shine?" he said.

Fortaleza said the international perception on cheating was "very unfortunate and degrading" to the Filipino athletes who have prepared and worked hard to come up with its impressive performance in the biennial meet.

Carol Araullo, chair of the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, added that "foreigners thought Ms Arroyo's cheating ways have rubbed off on all Filipinos."

GMA's low credibility

"Our athletes' performance will go to waste if the country's victories would only be put in question because of the low credibility of the regime," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

"It's tragic and infuriating that because of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her illegitimate leadership, other sectors of our society are being suspected of being cheaters and underhanded players," declared party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Malacañang reporters asked Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye if the prevailing view that the President allegedly cheated her way into Malacañang, as suggested by wiretapped conversations between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, somehow bolstered Thaksin's low view of Philippine sports officials.

"We should separate politics from sports, this is a sports event. We believe that the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play should prevail," said Bunye.

He also dismissed critics linking the participation of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in the SEA Games as the Philippine team chief of mission as another factor in the Thai esteem of the Filipinos. The President's corruption-tainted husband allegedly participated in the manipulation of votes for his wife in last year's presidential election.

"We should leave that issue aside and look at the circumstances very objectively and that is being done by sports officials," Bunye said.

Bunye said that the inquiry ordered by Ms Arroyo into the Thai allegations would include the viewpoint of other officials of participating countries. "Everybody will be consulted, inputs will be taken from participating countries. There's (going to be) a report to that effect," Bunye said.

Curiously, the President did not make an immediate denial of the cheating charges in the games. Bunye explained that the President did not want to "prejudge or make a judgment ahead of the actual investigation."

Bad impression

Also weighing in on the theme that Ms Arroyo is the culprit behind the Thai allegations was Rep. Imee Marcos, eldest daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"The bad impression world leaders have of the President—that of someone who has cheated to gain power and one who has lied through her teeth about it—has, unfortunately, rubbed off unfairly on our hardworking athletes," said Marcos.

"Can we blame leaders of other nations if they suspect that the Philippines is cheating? How can we when the legitimacy of President Arroyo's election itself is under a cloud of doubt?" she added.

And there's San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, son of deposed President Joseph Estrada who is facing plunder charges:

A word from De Castro

"We pity our athletes who worked so hard to excel in the competitions ... This is all because of Ms Arroyo."

Vice President Noli de Castro has a different take on Thaksin's charges. He doesn't buy the opposition claim that Garcillano could be a culprit in the SEA Games "hiccup."

"*Hindi magandang reaksyon naman iyan ng ating mga kababayan kahit na biro* (This is not a good reaction from our countrymen even if only a joke).

"*Kitang-kita mo naman na talaga na magagaling ang ating mga atleta* (You can see that our athletes are truly good)," said De Castro. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Philip C. Tubeza, Cynthia D. Balana and Edson Tandoc*

Inspirational hymn makes debut

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AFTER 39 YEARS, THE National Police Commission finally has its very own hymn, which its 500 employees sang for the first time this week.

The 13-line, three-stanza piece, penned by longtime employee Cristina Tan, captures the reason why the decades-old agency came into being.

"There were attempts before to have our hymn but these was not approved. Finally, we have this song which passed through the eyes of all officers and was approved," said Napolcom Public Information Office (PIO) chief Josephmar Gil.

During its thanksgiving program at the agency's Makati headquarters earlier this week, the Napolcom launched the hymn titled "Himig ng Pambansang Komisyon ng Pulisya."

"Every time I felt inspired, I wrote down lines. Then I chose the stanzas which I felt deeply about which encapsulated the Napolcom's mission and vision," said Tan. The song, written in Filipino, spoke of the commission's commitment to fulfilling its mandated functions as an attached agency of the Department of Interior and Local Government tasked to supervise the Philippine National Police.

The hymn's chorus goes: "Napolcom *tanging ikaw, kaisa at kasama/ Sa pamamahala sa pulis ng bayan/ Walang hinahangad, walang inaasam/ Kundi ang marangal na hanay ng kapulisan* (Napolcom, it's you alone, an ally and a partner/ In supervising the national police/ Nothing more desired, nothing aspired for/ But a dignified police force)."

Kapayapaan Para Sa Lahat: Go Vegetarian!
PETA
Peace On Earth For All: Go Vegetarian!
PETA

MEMBERS of the activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals dressed as Santa Claus went around the Baywalk area in Manila yesterday to spread this message of concern: Stay healthy this holiday season, go vegetarian.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Santa goes vegetarian this holiday season

By Tina G. Santos

CLAD IN SANTA CLAUS OUTFITS, A dozen members of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), a US-based activist group, brought good tidings of a meatless diet to promenaders along the Baywalk area in Manila yesterday.

The "Santas" staged a lunchtime protest to urge the public to lay off animals and go vegetarian during the holiday season.

"At this time of peace and goodwill, let us extend our sentiments to the animals. We can never have true world peace as long as billions of animals are subjected to the violence of factory farms and slaughterhouses," said Andrew Butler, Peta's coordinator in the Asia Pacific.

He added that "everyone can do their part in bringing peace to animals and protect their own health, simply by going vegetarian."

Butler said they decided to dress up as Santa Claus in dramatizing their protest against cruelty to animals since Christmas is fast approaching and everyone could relate to the image of jolly old St. Nick.

Peta has been encouraging Filipinos to embrace the vegetarian lifestyle, which has grown in popularity worldwide in recent years.

Millions of people have made the "healthy switch," Butler said, pointing to studies showing the link between meat consumption and heart disease, stroke and cancer.

The group also cited famous doctors, such as T. Colin Campbell and Dean Ornish of the University of California, who advocated vegetarianism following researches and experiments that demonstrated how artery blockages could be reversed with a low-fat, no-meat diet.

Peta's list of celebrities who follow a strict vegetarian diet include singer and songwriter Paul McCartney, and celebrities Gwyneth Paltrow, Kim Bassinger, Alec Baldwin, Joaquin Phoenix, Natalie Portman and Toby Maguire.

Butler pointed out that animals raised in factory farms are confined in dark, crowded buildings and crammed into cages and stalls where they could barely turn around.

"These animals are subjected to gruesome mutilations, such as debeaking and tail docking without the benefit of painkillers," he said. "They never see the sun, breathe fresh air or feel grass under their feet. On the bumpy trip in overcrowded trucks to the slaughterhouse, many animals suffer broken bones. Once inside the abattoir, some are still alive when their legs are hacked off or when they are skinned."

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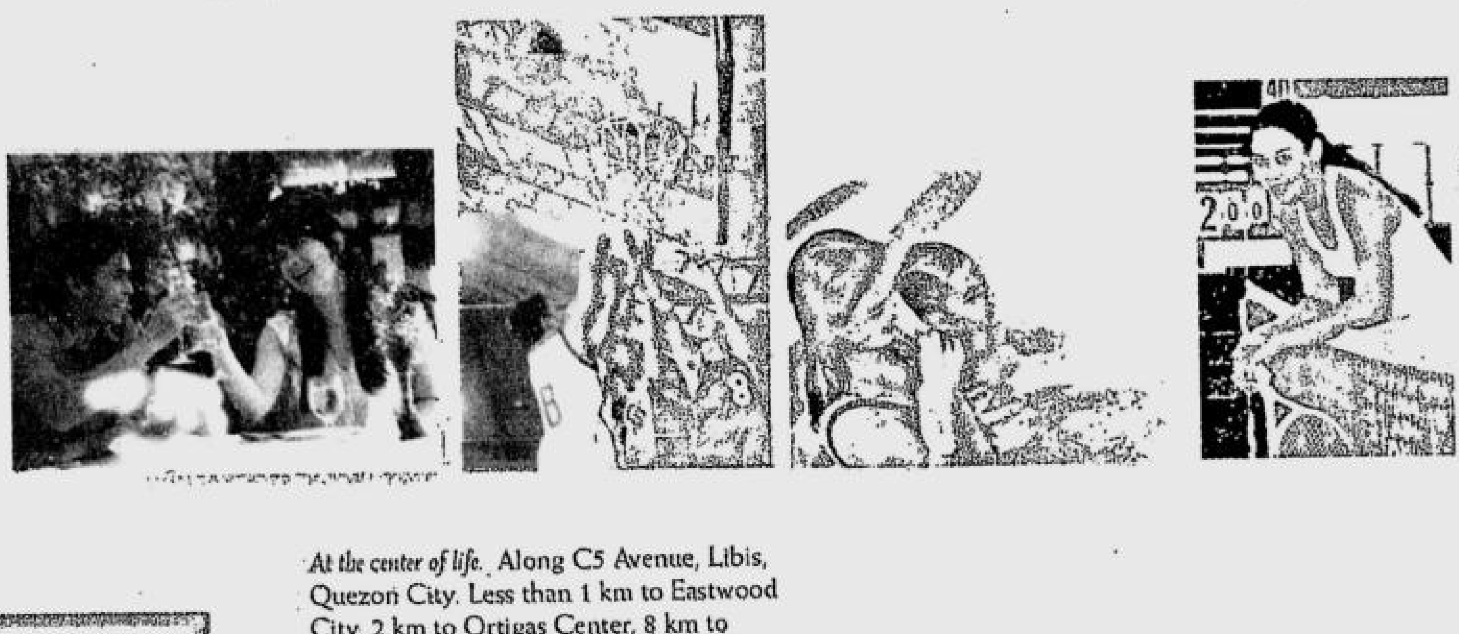

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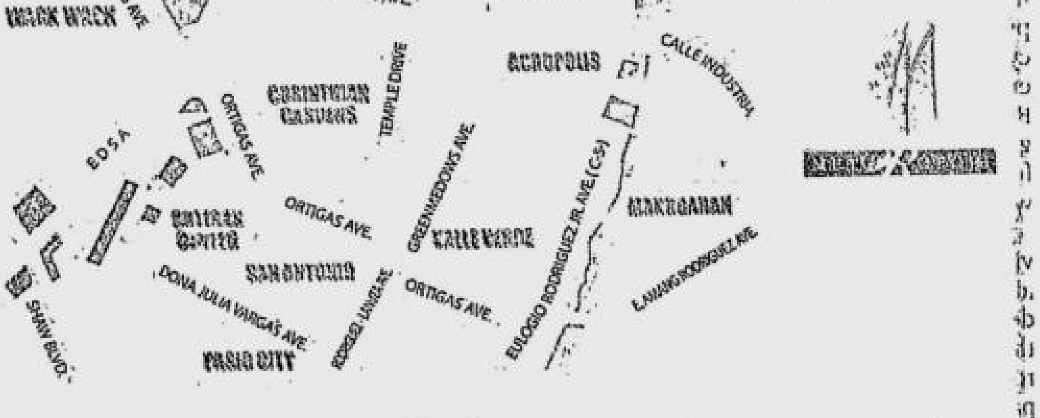

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LTFRB reminds FX taxis of Jan. 6 deadline

By Clarissa S. Batino

FX TAXIS ARE GIVEN UNTIL JAN. 6 TO CONvert to AUV express, otherwise, franchises will be cancelled

Public vehicles operating FX routes have only until Jan. 6, 2006 to convert their franchises in limbo into a legitimate AUV (Asian Utility Vehicle) Express, according to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said that only 81 have so far complied with the July 21 order out of the 4,745 PUVs qualified to convert their franchises into an AUV Express.

The first phase of the conversion, which will end on Jan. 6, covers those licensed to operate as a garage service, school service, vehicles for hire, shuttle service, Filcab, air-con jeeps and trucks for hire.

The deadline was supposed to be Sept. 1 this year but the slow compliance prompted the LTFRB to move it to next year.

"We will cancel the franchises of those covered by phase one that will not convert on or before Jan. 6," said the LTFRB chair in an interview.

The second phase, on the other hand, covers over 4,000 mega, metered and FX taxis. No deadline has been set for their conversion into an AUV Express.

The transport agency wants to rationalize its franchises by phasing out some of the permits issued in the past.

About 9,000 PUVs in limbo are qualified to avail of the program but only if their vehicles are not more than 13 years old, are not liftbacks or have jump seats. Operators should complete the conversion forms and pay the P30,000 conversion fee.

Once converted into an AUV Express, the FX taxis, which have become a convenient form of transport for a lot of commuters, must carry their passengers from terminal to terminal. They are not allowed to pick up and drop off passengers midway. They should be painted white, including the bumpers.

The umbrella organization of all FX taxis and vans plying the so-called FX route, however, is opposed to the AUV Express order.

Jun Magno, president of the Confederation of FX/Highlander/AUV Operators Driver Association, earlier said the circular issued by the LTFRB last July 21 posed several problems to operators.

Kidnap cases up; NCR tops list

By Luige A. del Puerto

KIDNAPPING CASES DURING THE first 11 months of this year have far exceeded the cases recorded last year.

Some 44 kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) cases were reported as of November 2005, compared to last year's total of 29, said a police officer who declined to be identified because he said he was not authorized to release the data.

In the National Capital Region (NCR) alone, the Presidential Anti-Crime Emergency and Response (Pacer), the police's anti-kidnapping unit, recorded 20 cases, compared to 14 incidents last year and 15 in 2003.

The police official attributed last year's record to political stability which brought about a more focused approach to kidnapping.

Being an election year, the police were also on their feet, setting up more checkpoints and searches compared to non-election years.

"This year, the police had to monitor numerous street demonstrations," he said, an additional burden on thinning manpower resources.

"Last year, the government's focus was on kidnapping. This year, it's carjacking," he added.

Anti-crime advocates also cited Pacer's shrinking budget as a contributing factor in the upsurge.

Because of financial constraints, the momentum against kidnap groups was lost and the remaining members of the kidnapping syndicates were able to regroup, warned anti-crime advocate Teresita Ang-Se earlier.

Without quoting statistics, top police officials admitted the increase at the sidelines of a press briefing on Wednesday.

"The cases have increased, but one good thing is that we have neutralized a good number of KFR groups," said Pacer chief Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon.

Cases against KFR suspects had also been filed in court, the official said.

"Considering that Christmas is fast approaching, we have to be constantly on our toes; we are more alert," Calderon said during the press briefing.

There was one piece of good news, though. Senior state prosecutor Millete de los Santos said the prosecution and the courts "are moving very fast in the trial of these cases."

She cited the death by lethal injection sentence handed down by a Malolos City court to three men accused of kidnapping businessman Jimmy Ting in 2002.

"That was a record-setter," De los Santos said, adding that the trial lasted only two and half years compared to others that lasted eight to 10 years.

Asked what factors contributed to the quick resolution of the case, the prosecutor said: "The prosecution is only as good as the evidence. We had good evidence in this case.

"We also had continuous hearings. We made sure there was always a prosecutor present so there would be no excuse for delays in the trial," De los Santos said.

NBI execs welcome insider's appointment as acting chief

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGAtion (NBI) Assistant Director Nestor Mantaring has been appointed as the officer-in-charge of the bureau with NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco still in a coma at the Manila Doctors Hospital.

In a directive signed on Nov. 24, President Macapagal-Arroyo designated Mantaring as NBI officer-in-charge to ensure the continuity of public service.

Mantaring said that with his appointment, "there has been no significant changes in the ranks of the bureau's personnel and the NBI's day-to-day operations."

"The existing plans and programs started by Director Wycoco are being implemented smoothly," he said in a statement.

A number of NBI officials have expressed delight over Mantaring's appointment.

"We prefer insiders qualified for the position of NBI director to head the bureau," an official who requested anonymity said, explaining that Mantaring had risen from the ranks and was assigned to many areas in the country as an NBI agent.

"We are unhappy that there are persistent rumors that two retired police generals are eyeing the position of NBI chief even while Director Wycoco is still fighting for his life," the official lamented.

An NBI division chief said it was "high time" that an NBI insider led them.

METROBRIEFS

Axed over tardiness

IF YOU keep a senior Cabinet secretary waiting for half an hour during a scheduled visit, expect to get the axe. Batasan Hills Police station commander Supt. Emmanuel Bautista discovered this yesterday after Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered his immediate relief for keeping him waiting and for failing to set up a checkpoint on Commonwealth Avenue at 7 a.m. as scheduled. Reyes, Metro Manila Police chief Director Vidal Querol and Quezon City Police head Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan arrived in the area a few minutes before 7 a.m. only to find out that no checkpoint against suspected car thieves had been established. Bautista finally showed up at past 7:30 a.m. and promptly saluted Reyes who told him, "You are relieved. Do you know that you are relieved?" Although Bautista reasoned that he had been up all night investigating the death of two suspected robbers, Radovan did not take his side and defended Reyes. "It was the right decision," Radovan told the INQUIRER, adding that it was improper for officers to keep their superiors waiting. *Luige A. del Puerto, DJ Yap*

YAHOO! TULOY ANG PASKO NATIN!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Workers lose factory but keep pay

FIREMEN yesterday turned over a vault containing over P100,000 in cash to the owner of a factory which burned down in Valenzuela City. Fire Marshal Chief Insp. Agapito Nacario said the vault was turned over to William Young, owner of the rubber sandal factory, Filcor Marketing Corp., located on Sto. Rosario Street in Barangay Ugong. "The owner was happy to receive the vault with money intended to pay for the workers salary amounting to more than P100,000," Nacario said. The slightly burnt vault was discovered by Insp. Enrico Wawa after the fire gutted the one-story structure and destroyed an estimated P5 million worth of goods and property. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Not just for art's sake

Art directors and other professionals from the advertising industry are putting together an art exhibit titled "Not just for Art's Sake," to help out Gina Sicam, a former advertising professional who needs to undergo a kidney transplant. Edith Esguerra, Sicam's long-time friend, who is an associate creative director at Jimenez Basic Advertising, is organizing the exhibit, together with Lilibeth A. Ducut-Abais, managing director of L.A. Ducut and Company Inc. The exhibit will be featured in their company-organized Christmas Lifestyle Expo, happening from Dec. 2 – 4, at the World Trade Center on Roxas Blvd. For more information, call L.A. Ducut and Company, Inc. at 8738202 or 1198, 8876 and 9047 or e-mail lifestyleexpo@laducut.com.

MMDA bans road excavations

By Tarra Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday ordered a halt to road diggings in the weeks leading to and right after the holiday season when traffic is at its heaviest in the metropolis.

"In view of the projected substantial increase in the volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic that inevitably occurs with the onset of the [holidays], all excavation in Metro Manila road right-of-ways are hereby suspended," the memo issued by the agency said.

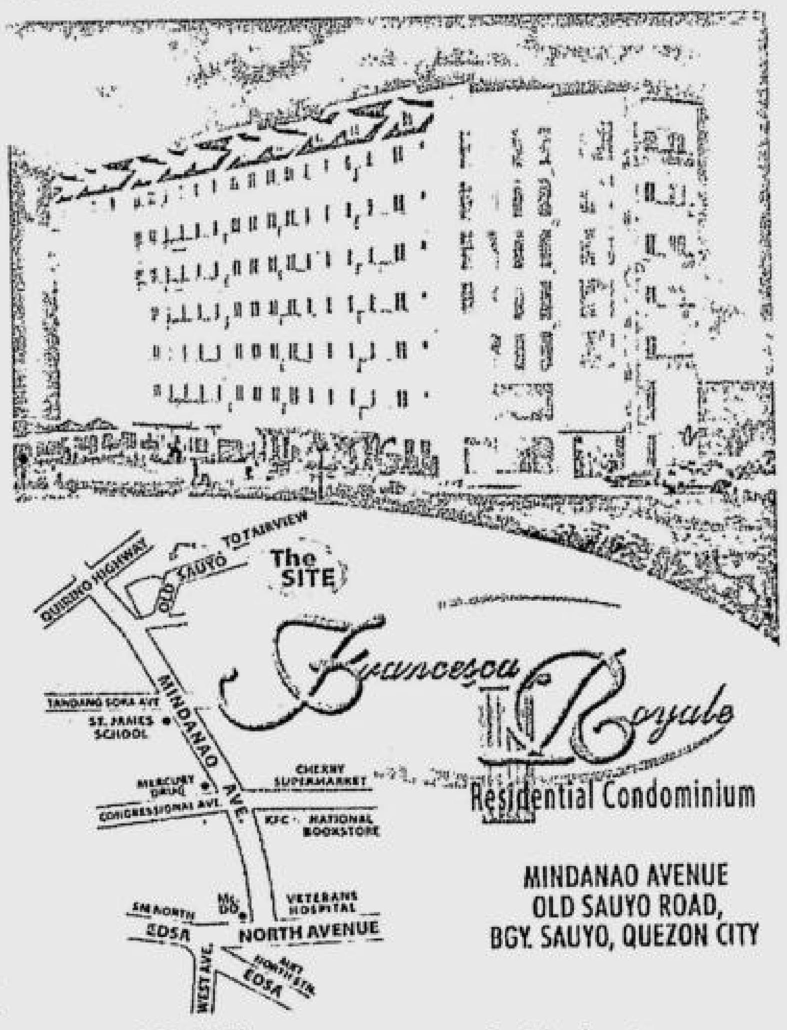
The suspension would take effect from Dec. 12 to Jan. 6 next year. The yearend moratorium has been an annual practice for the agency which is empowered under MMDA Regulation 98-009 to grant or deny permits for road diggings within Metro Manila.

"It is likewise advised that appropriate measures be undertaken to ensure that the affected roadways remain passable and serviceable to all vehicles during the period," said the order.

The suspension would affect the metro's major roads such as Edsa, Commonwealth Avenue, R10 Road, C5 Road, Quezon Avenue, Marcos Highway, and McArthur Highway.

Traffic Engineer JR Carpio of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center's (TOC) road diggings unit said the moratorium would likewise take effect on smaller public roads plied by public transport.

Those who violate the MMDA order would be slapped a fine ranging from P1,000 to P20,000 or imprisonment of between one to two months, or both based on the discretion of a trial court.



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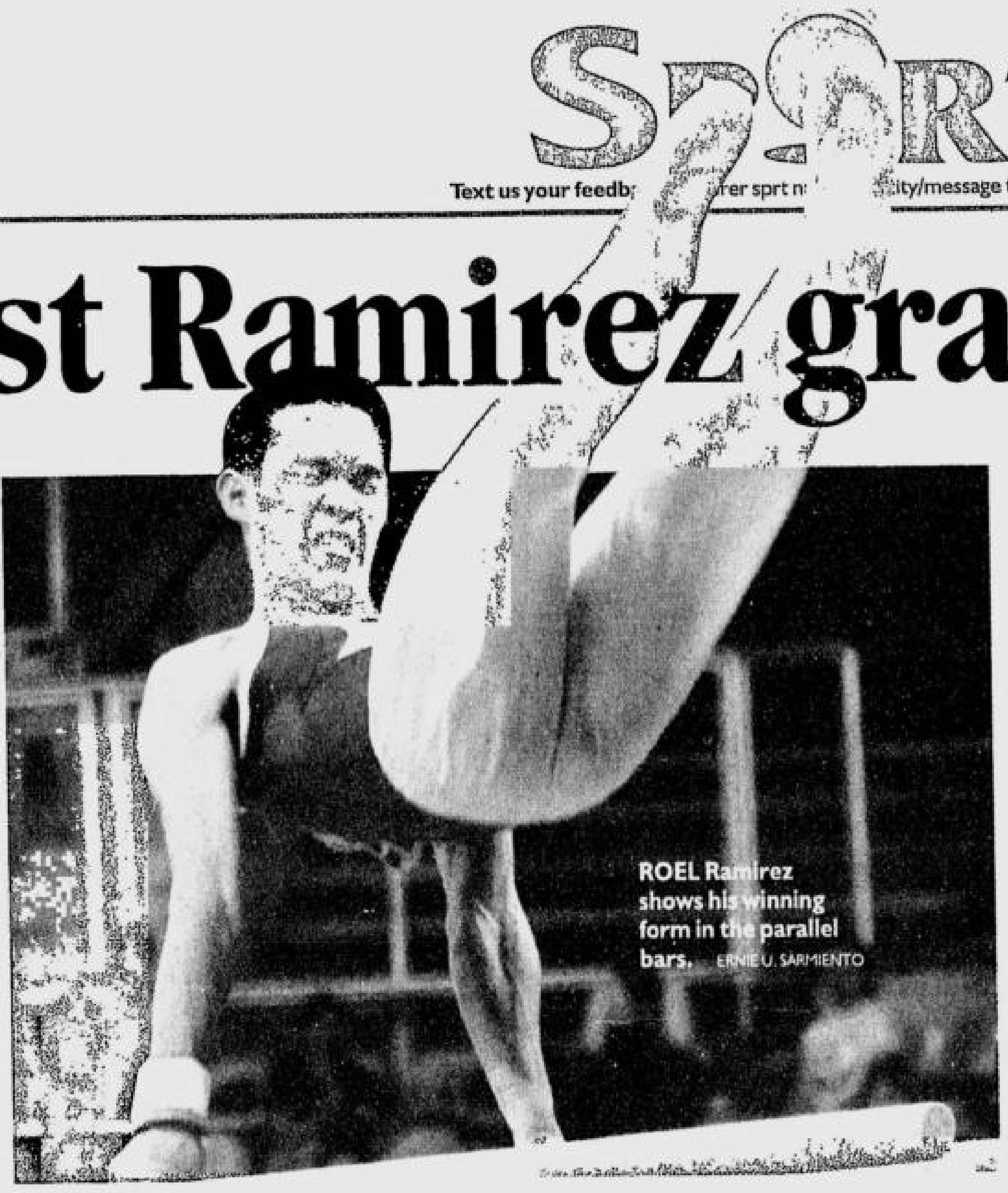
Gymnast Ramirez grabs 2 golds

By Jasmine W. Payo


ROEL Ramirez shows his winning form in the parallel bars. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

THE PHILIPPINES DREW ANother golden vault performance from Roel Ramirez, who later clinched another gold in the floor exercise as protests marred the men's artistic individual event in gymnastics of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

Ramirez garnered 9.200 points in the vault, almost two points ahead of the 9.075 points scored by joint silver medalists Shu Wai Ng of Malaysia and M. Aldilla Akbar of Indonesia.

The 23-year-old Ramirez later ended up sharing the floor exercise gold with Shu Wai Ng of Malaysia and M. Aldilla Akbar of Indonesia with identical 8.450 points.

The Philippines also clinched a silver through Ramirez in the high bar and two more bronzes from Brydon Sy in the parallel bars and Kristine Raissa Saguisag in the women's vault.

The awards ceremony was delayed for more than an hour as Federation of International Gymnastics director Kim Sung-ho of South Korea deliberated with technical officials after questions were raised on the scores in the floor exercise.

Ramirez was initially declared as the sole winner with a score of 8.525 points. Malaysia and Indonesia tied for silver with 8.450 points.

But another round of discussion ensued as Malaysia and Indonesia questioned the decision. The Federation eventually decided to award three golds, with each gymnast scoring 8.450.

"You saw Roel's performance and he deserves it," said RP team coach Sonny Ty. "But we didn't intervene because it would give color (to the issue) because we're the host. We didn't influence anybody. So we let the Federation decide."

Team officials from Malaysia and Indonesia raised technical issues when initial results showed that Ramirez won the gold.

"Why can't they give three golds," asked Paramaspathy Iyakkando, assistant team manager of Malaysia, who threatened to boycott the competition if officials didn't decide on a three-way tie. "There's no tiebreak in the SEA Games, only in the world competition and Asian Games."

Ramirez, the first Filipino to win in the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup last February, earned 8.825 points in the high bar to grab the silver behind Shu Wai Ng of Malaysia (9.200).

"I was only confident with my performance in the vault," said Ramirez, who also won the gold in the apparatus in the 2003 edition in Vietnam.

Sy, who scored a third-best 8.625 points in the parallel bars, trailed Vietnamese Pham Phuoc Hung (9.050) and Nguyen Ha Thanh (8.850).

Saguisag was the first medalist in the women's team. The 14-year-old scored 8.650 in the vault. Indonesia had a gold-silver finish with Adelina Riri Wulandari (8.750) and Dewo Prehara (8.675).

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SEA Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
Philippines	63	43	50	156
Vietnam	47	41	51	139
Thailand	37	47	61	145
Malaysia	30	26	30	86
Indonesia	24	34	48	106
Singapore	19	18	25	62
Myanmar	9	12	24	45
Laos	1	3	5	9
Brunei	0	2	2	4
Cambodia	0	0	4	4
Timor Leste	0	0	0	0
Total	230	226	300	756

Medal tally (As of 9:00 p.m. December 1, 2005)
— from the Philsoc website

Six pages of SEA Games stories

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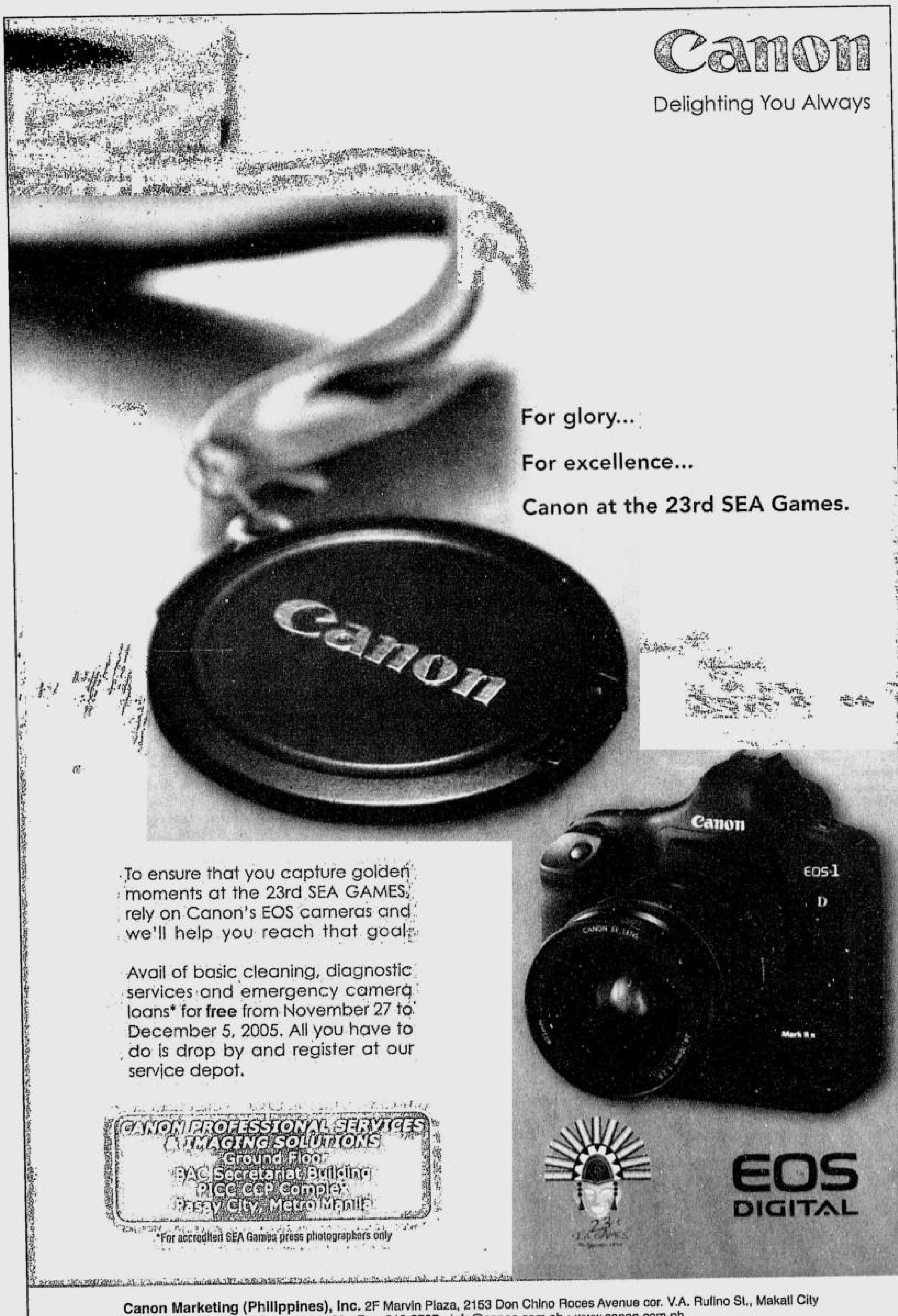
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7 RP pugs gain finals

By Recah Trinidad

JOEGEN Ladon sneaks a left straight to Vietnamese Nguyen Kien's jaw. REM ZAMORA

BACOLOD CITY—A FIRST LOSS, at the hands of Thailand's finest pugilist here, was all the Philippines had to pay before it succeeded in sending a total of seven boxers into the gold-medal round after yesterday's semifinal of Southeast Asian Games boxing competition at the La Salle Coliseum.

Juanito Magliquian conquered Thailand's Keanuv Pangpayoon, 37-25, to move into the pinweight division final, but RP dropped its first bout after Day 4 of competitions when Somjit Jongjohor did the expected by toying with Warlito Parreñas, 16-10, in the flyweight class.

The Philippines is now up 3-1, in its head-on clash with Thailand, following the earlier conquest of light flyweight Harry Tanamor and lightweight Genebert Basadre of their Thai foes.

After Magliquian's revenge win over the Thai who deprived him of the gold in the 2003 Vietnam Games, featherweight Don Joegen Ladon swamped Vietnam's Nguyen Trung Kien, 29-9, for an automatic stoppage in the third round.

Light welterweight Romeo Brin, a three-time Olympian, then stopped Myanmar's Aung Thura, 25-5 (RSC-Outcored) also in the third round.

Hardly had the thrilled crowd of Negrenses settled when comebacking Reynaldo Galido demolished Cambodia's Ath Samreth, 22-0, for a sensational stoppage in the first round of the middleweight class.

With four male fighters already in the finals yesterday, RP female fighters produced two more finalists—pinweight Alice Kate Aparri and bantam Jouveliet Chilem—who joined flyweight Annie Albania in the gold-medal round.

The semifinal round will be completed today with six more RP fighters-four men and two women-in the hunt that could turn the boxing arena here into a gold mine for the country's quest of the Games overall championship.

Fighting for RP today are light flyweight Anna Liza Cruz, lightweight Mitchel Martinez, Tañamor, bantamweight Joan Tipon, Basadre, and welterweight Marc Jason Millegen.

The Philippines salvaged a lone gold against seven by Thailand in the 2003 Vietnam Games but, with the latest results, Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez said there's a great chance of unseating the Thais as boxing champions.

Lopez also clarified that, contrary to reports emanating from Thailand, there has been no complaint whatsoever from top Thai officials about alleged cheating here.

"General Toweep Jantaparon, the head of the Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand, has assured everything has been fair in the boxing competition," Lopez said.

Fencers retain overall championship

By JP Abcede

FILIPINO fencers whoop it up after the team foil victory. RAFFY LERMA

THE MAGIC NUMBER WAS FIVE going into the last day and the Philippines reached that target by ruling the men's team foil at the close of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games fencing competition yesterday at the San Juan Gymnasium.

The Philippines prevailed, 45-37. over Vietnam in the finals and retained the overall title with its most productive output since 1993 of five golds, two silvers and six bronzes.

They improved on their 4-4-1 standing in the Vietnam SEA Games. Thailand placed second with a 3-5-4 gold-silver-bronze tally and Vietnam was third with 2-4-7.

The Filipinos, who improved on their 4-4-1 overall record last year, turned back Thailand in the men's team foil semis, 45-38, as Ramil Endriano recovered from his bronze-medal performance in the men's individual foil by scoring the last four hits against Nontapat Panchan in the final round. In one instance, Endriano caught the Thai in the air in an offensive gem that received a thundering response from the crowd.

Indonesia got the bronze in men's team foil.

Nevertheless, the Thais gave the Filipinos a scare earlier in the day after taking the men's sabre finals, 45-40, as RP anchor Walbert Mendoza failed to overcome a 36-40 deficit against Wiradesch Kothny.

"If the team wins, four guys are happy. If you win alone, it's only you who is happy," the Thai Olympian said.

Vietnam and Indonesia took the two bronze medals in men's team sabre.

Singapore won its first gold medal in the women's team foil competition, overcoming Vietnam, 44-40.

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SEA GAMES SCHEDULES

AQUATICS-SWIMMING (*Trace College, Los Baños, Laguna*)
8 a.m.—50M Freestyle (men's heats); 200M Breaststroke (men's and women's heats); 200M Freestyle (women's heats); 1500M Freestyle (men's heats); 4x100M Medley Relay (women's heats)
6 p.m.—50M Freestyle (men's finals); 200M Breaststroke (men's and women's finals); 200M Freestyle (women's finals); 1500M Freestyle (men's finals); 4x100M Medley Relay (women's finals)
ARCHERY (*Remy Baseball Field, Subic Bay Freeport*)
10 a.m.—Compound (women's team q'finals)
10:30 a.m.—Recurve (men's team q'finals)
11 a.m. Compound (women's team semis)
11:30 a.m.—Recurve (men's team semis)
1:30 p.m.—Recurve (women's team q'finals)
2 p.m.—Compound (men's team q'finals)
2:30 p.m.—Recurve (women's team semis)
3 p.m.—Compound (men's team semis)
BADMINTON (*PhilSports Arena, Pasig City*)
TBA
BASEBALL (*Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium, Manila*)
10 a.m.—Thailand vs. Philippines (men's elims)
BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER (*Makati Coliseum, Makati City*)
10 a.m.—9-Ball Pool (women's pre-q'finals); English Billiards Singles (men's pre-q'finals)
1 p.m.—9-Ball Pool (women's q'finals); English Billiards Singles (men's pre-q'finals); Snooker Doubles (men's bronze match)
4 p.m.—9-Ball Pool (women's semis); Snooker Doubles (men's finals)
7 p.m.—9-Ball Pool (women's finals and bronze match); English Billiards Singles (men's q'finals)
BOWLING-TENPIN (*Pearl Bowling Center, Parañaque City*)
9 a.m.—Men's and women's team 1st block
2 p.m.—Men's and women's team 2nd block/finals
BOXING (*University of St. La Salle Coliseum, Bacolod City*)
5 p.m.—Men's and women's semis
CANOEING AND KAYAKING (*Malawaan Fishing Area, Subic Bay Freeport*)
9 a.m.—Men's K1 heats
9:20 a.m.—Women's K2 heats
9:40 a.m.—Men's C1 heats
10:30 a.m.—Men's K1 semis
10:40 a.m.—Women's K2 semis
10:50 a.m.—Men's C1 semis
CHESS (*Tagaytay International Convention Center, Tagaytay City*)
9 a.m.—Standard (men's and women's round 4)
4:30 p.m.—Standard (men's and women's round 5)
CYCLING-ROAD (*Tagaytay City*)
8:30 a.m.—69.5KM Massed Start (women's finals)
11 a.m.—160KM Massed Start (men's finals)
EQUESTRIAN (*Alabang Country Club Polo Field, Muntinlupa City*)
10 a.m.—Team Event (1st round)
3 p.m.—Team Event (final round)
FOOTBALL (*Panaad Sports Complex, Bacolod City*)
4 p.m.—Thailand vs. Indonesia (men's semis)
7 p.m.—Vietnam vs. Malaysia (men's semis)
GOLF (*The Country Club, Canlubang, Laguna*)
7:30 a.m.—Men's Individual (1st round)
GYMNASTICS (*Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila*)
3 p.m.—Rhythmic Gymnastics (women's team finals)
JUDO (*Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City*)
1 p.m.—52, -57, -81, -90 kg (elims)
5 p.m.—52, -57, -81, -90 kg (bronze matches)
6 p.m.—52, -57, -81, -90 kg (finals)
LAWN BOWLS (*Hidden Vale Sports Club, Angeles City, Pampanga*)
8:30 a.m.—Men's and women's singles and pairs (round 3); men's and women's triples (round 4)
1 p.m.—Men's and women's singles (round 4); men's and women's pairs (rounds 4 and 5)
MUAY (*GSIS Basketball Gym, Pasay City*)
3 p.m.—45-48kg, 48-51kg, 51-54kg, 54-57kg (men's semis)
PENCAK SILAT (*Cebu Coliseum, Cebu City*)
9 a.m.—Tanding (men's classes A-I semis)
2 p.m.—Tanding (women's classes A-D semis)
7:30 p.m.—Regu (men's and women's finals); Tunggal (men's and women's singles finals)
SAILING (*Subic Bay Yacht Club, Subic Bay Freeport*)
11 a.m.—Racing (all classes)
SEPAK TAKRAW (*University of San Carlos Gym, Cebu City*)
8 a.m.—Myanmar vs. Singapore (men's double regu elims)
9 a.m.—Malaysia vs. Thailand (men's double regu elims)
10 a.m.—Philippines vs. Indonesia (men's double regu elims)
1 p.m.—Brunei Darussalam vs. Vietnam (men's double regu elims)
2 p.m.—Myanmar vs. Indonesia (men's double regu elims)
3 p.m.—Malaysia vs. Vietnam (men's double regu elims)
SHOOTING-PISTOL AND RIFLE/PRACTICAL (*PSC-PNSA Shooting Range, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig*)
9 a.m.—25m Rapid Fire Pistol (men's finals), 50m Rifle 3 Position 3x40 (women's finals)
SHOOTING-TRAP/SKEET (*PNSA Clay Target Range, Muntinlupa City*)
9 a.m.—Skeet 50 Targets (men's finals)
SOFTBALL (*Rosario Sports Arena, Pasig City*)
7:30 a.m.—Philippines vs. Singapore (men's elims)
9:30 a.m.—Philippines vs. Singapore (women's elims)
11:30 a.m.—Malaysia vs. Indonesia (men's elims)
1:30 p.m.—Thailand vs. Philippines (women's elims)
3:30 p.m.—Philippines vs. Malaysia (men's elims)
TABLE TENNIS (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Manila*)
9 a.m.—Mixed doubles (1st round/q'finals)
2 p.m.—Men's and women's doubles (1st round/q'finals)
7 p.m.—Mixed doubles (semis)
TENNIS (*Rizal Memorial Sports Complex*)
10 a.m.—Danai Udomchoke (THA) vs. Eric Taino (PHI) (men's singles semis)
11 a.m.—Prima Simpatiaji (INA) vs. Cecil Mamiit (PHI) (men's singles semis)
12 p.m.—Wynne Prakusya/Romana Tedjakusuma (INA) vs. Denise Dy/Riza Zalameda (PHI) (women's doubles semis)
1 p.m.—Prima Simpatiaji/Sunu Wahyu Trijati (INA) vs Cecil Mamiit/Eric Taino (PHI) (men's doubles semis)
TRADITIONAL BOAT RACE (*La Mesa Dam Reservoir, Novaliches*)
9:30 a.m.—1000M 10A-Side (men's and women's heats/repechages)
2:30 p.m.—1000M 10A-Side (men's and women's finals); 1000M 20A-Side (men's finals)
TRIATHLON (*Boardwalk, Subic Bay Freeport*)
6:30 a.m.—Men's individual finals
VOLLEYBALL (*West Negros College Gym, Bacolod City*)
2 p.m.—Indonesia vs. Vietnam (women's)
3:30 p.m.—Philippines vs. Thailand (women's)
5 p.m.—Myanmar vs. Thailand (men's)
VOLLEYBALL-BEACH (*University of St. La Salle Grounds, Bacolod City*)
8 a.m.—Malaysia-A vs. Malaysia-B (women's pool B); Indonesia-B vs. Vietnam (women's pool B); Thailand-A vs. Thailand-B (women's pool A); Indonesia-A vs. Philippines-A (women's pool A); Philippines-B vs. Malaysia-B (women's pool B); Indonesia-B vs. Malaysia-A (women's pool B); Thailand-B vs. Vietnam (men's pool B); Indonesia-A vs. Indonesia-B (men's pool A); Philippines-A vs. Thailand-A (men's pool A); Vietnam vs. Philippines-B (men's pool B); Malaysia vs. Cambodia (men's pool B)
WEIGHTLIFTING (*Bacolod Convention Center, Bacolod City*)
1 p.m.—85kg (men's finals)
4 p.m.—63kg (women's finals)

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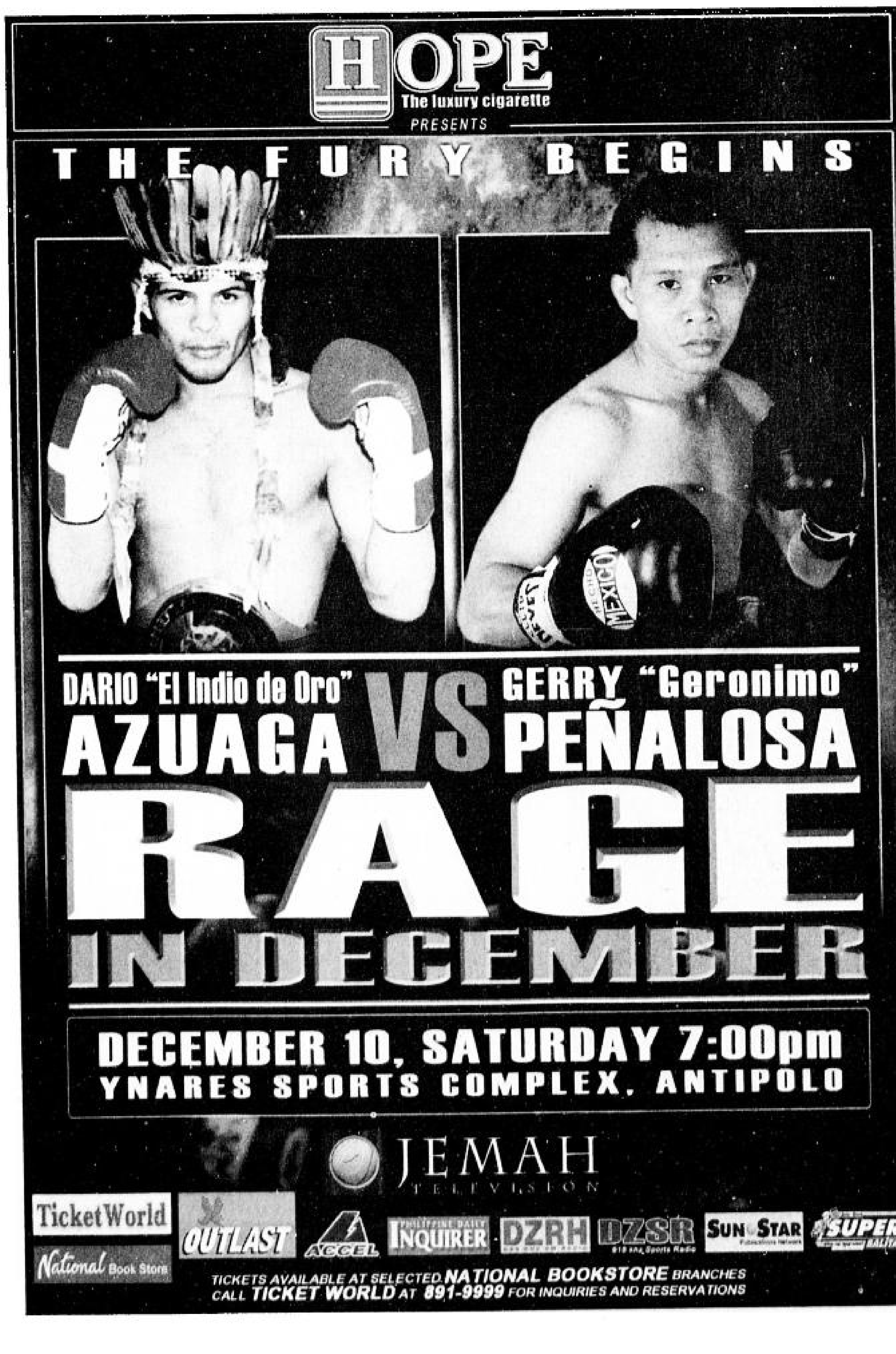
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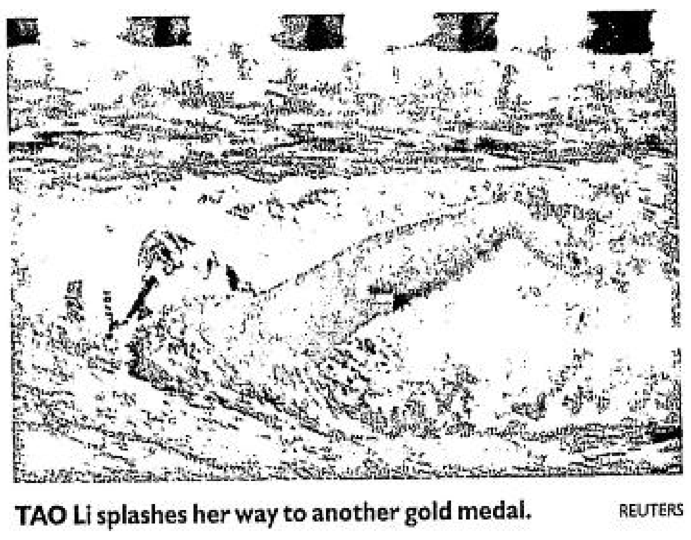
Singapore assault silences swim bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes



TAO Li splashes her way to another gold medal. REUTERS

LOS BANOS—IT WAS ALL BUBbles instead of medals for the Filipino swimmers yesterday.

The Philippines came up empty as it failed to crash through the intense Singapore assault in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games swimming competition at the Trace Aquatics Center.

Miguel Mendoza and Lizza Danila even failed to duplicate their medal finishes two years ago in the men's 400m freestyle and the women's 100m backstroke, respectively.

Singapore's Tao Li, the heir apparent to the great Joscelyn Yeo, snatched her second gold medal in record fashion, submitting a time of one minute and 3.83 seconds to better the 1:03.93 SEAG women's 100-meter backstroke mark booked in 2001 by Thailand's Chonlathorn Vorathamrong.

Yeo came up with a record of her own in the women's 100m butterfly winning the gold in 59.91 to better her own mark of 1:00.44 in 1999. It was the 26-year-old Yeo's fourth gold in the meet—the most so far in the Games—which is said to be her final SEA Games. She has a running total of 38 SEAG gold medals.

Myanmar's Moe Thu Ang placed second (1:00.87) and Singapore's Tao Li was third (1:01.58). Luica Dacanay of the Philippines was eighth (1:05.97).

Singapore also bagged the men's 4X100m freestyle relay for its fourth gold medal for the day and eighth overall in the competition.

Singapore's team timed 3:27.56 beating Indonesia (3:29.46) and Thailand (3:31.12).

The RP team of James Walsh, Kendrick Uy, Ronald Guiriba and Miguel Molina, landed fourth place, losing the bronze by just .6 seconds (3:31.18).

Vorathamrong, the defending women's 100m back champion, could only finish third with 1:05.28, behind second placer Malaysia's Lai Kwan Chui (1:05.27).

Danila, the hometown bet who suffered from asthma just a week ago, was in the thick of the race in the first 50 meters, tailing Tao.

But the Vietnam SEAG silver winner in this event—despite the goading of the huge flag-waving crowd—simply could not sustain the rapid pace and wound up fifth with a time of 1:06.56.

Lionel Lee Jian Yow touched off the Singaporean blitzkrieg with a gold medal in the 400m free, clocking 4:00.51, besting Indonesia's Akbar Nasution who led most of the way only to lose steam and finish in 4:00.57. Defending champion Charnvudth Panachart of Thailand was third in 4:02.56.

Mendoza, who bagged a silver in the event two years ago, wasn't really in contention and settled for fifth in 4:04.79. His teammate Ryan Arabejo was seventh of eight swimmers with a clocking of 4:06.26.

Malaysia's Alex Lim Keng Liat retained his men's 100m backstroke, beating Singapore's Mark Chay Jung Jun and Thailand's Suriya Suksukphak. The Vietnam gold winner timed 56.97 to take the gold, while Jung Jun clocked 58.49 and Suksukphak 58.76 to settle for the silver and bronze, respectively.

Daniel Bego of Malaysia bagged the gold in the men's 100m fly in a mad dash to the finish for a 55.84 clocking. He nosed out Indonesia's Donny Utomo (56.17) and compatriot Alex Lim Keng Liat (56.26). RP's James Walsh was fourth finishing in 56.33. *With a report from Don Eric Sta. Rosa*

AQUATICS MEDAL STANDINGS

Country	G	S	B
Philippines	7	2	6
Singapore	10	7	6
Malaysia	8	6	5
Thailand	3	8	10
Vietnam	1	2	0
Indonesia	2	4	3
Myanmar	0	1	1
Cambodia	0	0	0
Laos	0	0	0
Brunei	0	0	0
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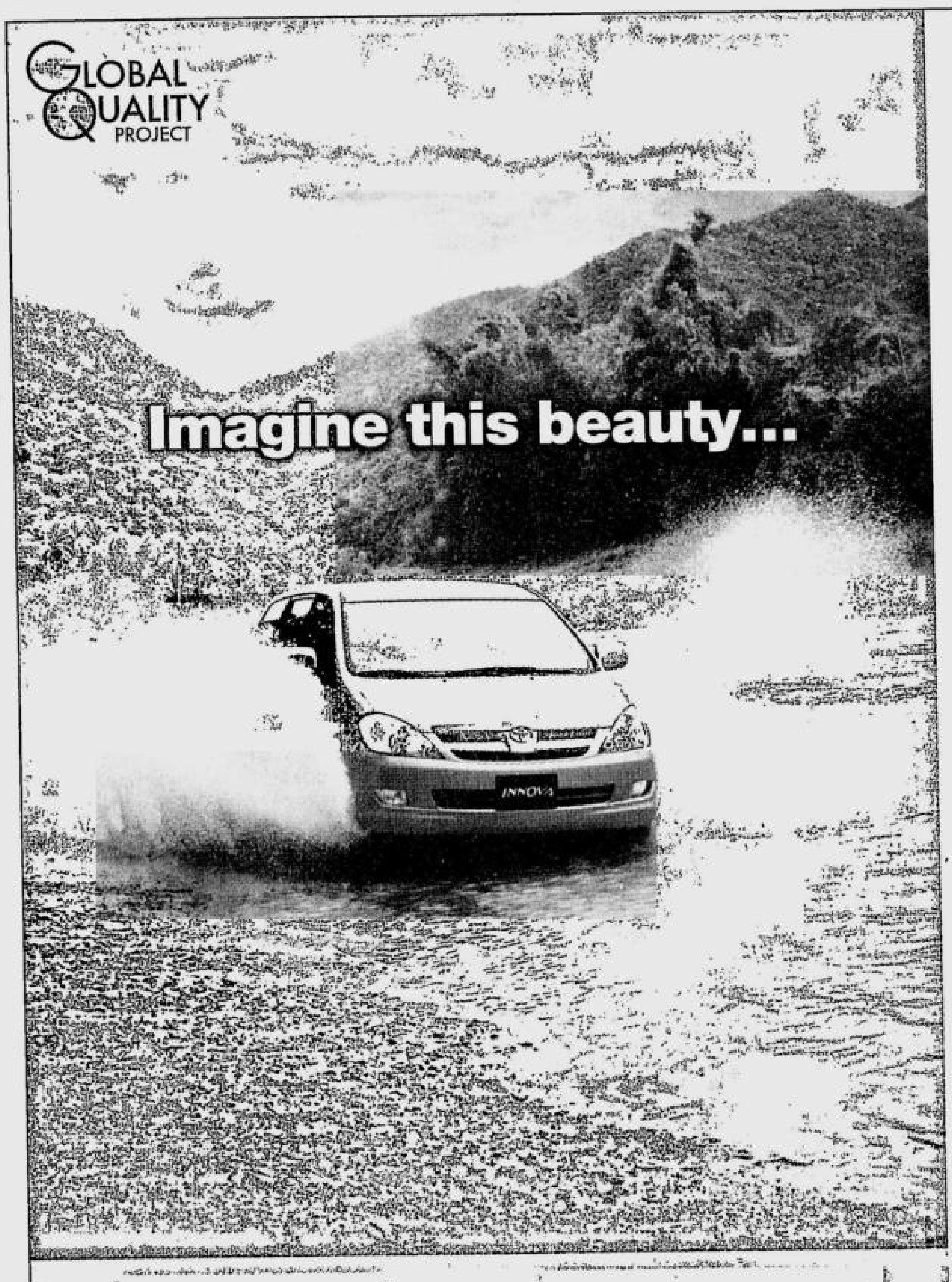

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KIMBELEY Yap soloes it home. ROMY HOMILLADA

Aces Araullo, De Leon pay for tactical blunder in Subic

By June Navarro

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—KIMBELEY Yap Fui Li of Malaysia cut loose in swimming and cashed in on a tactical blunder by the Filipinos to grab the gold in women's triathlon of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here yesterday.

A former national swimmer, the 20-year-old Li easily broke away in her forte, leaving local bets Alessandra Araullo and Ani Karina De Leon almost four minutes behind after the 1.5-km swim on her way to victory.

Li clocked 2 hours, 14 minutes and 39 seconds while Araullo, who had the best time during a SEAG trial two weeks ago, settled for the silver in 2:15:59.

Ng Xinyi Alisa of Singapore finished the race in 2:21:57 and snatched the bronze from De Leon, who wound up fourth after being hit by leg cramps in the first lap of the 10-km run.

Araullo and De Leon could have given the Malaysian a run for her money but they focused too much on Songsiri Phocharoen of Thailand in the six-lap, 40-km cycling segment.

"By the time we dropped her (Songsiri), it was already too late," said Araullo. "It was a mistake. We should have concentrated on Kimbeley (Li) throughout."

By the time the Filipinos decided to go after Li, the Malaysian was already beyond recall.

Araullo, the 24-year-old physics instructor at the University of the Philippines, was faster than Li in the cycling and running portions of the lung-busting event, but the latter's big lead in swimming proved decisive in the end.

"After getting the edge in the swim part, I just pushed all the way," said Li, a bronze medalist in 400-meter freestyle relay during the 2001 edition of the Games in Kuala Lumpur.

A daughter of a boat station manager in Sarawak, Malaysia; Li aggravated a recurring injury on her left shin a few laps going to the finish line.

It slowed her for a moment midway through the 10-km run but the thought of winning the gold simply fired her up.

Claro, Laruan hurdle first muay thai encounters

ROLAND CLARO WAS THE FIRST FILIPINO TO leave the 23rd Southeast Asian Games muay thai victorious yesterday.

Claro, the 2004 World Muay Thai Champion, thrashed Thu Ra Lin Htut of Burma (Myanmar) by unanimous decision as the sport debuted in front of a rowdy GSIS Gym crowd that included First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

The Zamboanga native banked on his quick footwork and reflexes in the four-round men's lightweight bout to subdue one of Myanmar's four bets in the eliminations.

"I watched his moves before I attacked," the 25-year-old Claro said in Filipino.

Zaidi Laruan later joined Claro in the next round after the 17-year-old from Benguet outscored Burmese Kyaw Min Htike of in the men's flyweight division.

Not to be outdone, Thais Uchaim Yingram and Virapong Nonting also exacted victories in impressive fashion.

Uchaim dominated Khamouane Khonavanh in the men's lightweight while Virapon stopped Laos' Phanvilay Rattanabounmy 1 minute 38 seconds into the second round of the men's flyweight eliminations. *Karla Tricia V. Magno*

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FILIPINOS Ani Karina De Leon and Alessandra Araull

Viets u
as RP b

By Musong R. Castillo

ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT WENT BAD ON a good day for Vietnam was a serious injury to its lady wrestler.

Otherwise, the Vietnamese have made a game out of it with still four days before the 23rd Southeast Asian Games conclude on Monday.

Defending overall champion Vietnam picked up six gold medals in a productive fourth day at the Games and slowly pulled closer behind the frontrunning Team Philippines, which held on despite accusations of cheating from the Thai prime minister.

Victories on the road and in water boosted the Vietnamese total to 45 gold medals last night that cut the Philippine lead to only 15 with still 246 gold medals to be disputed before the curtains fall on this edition of the Games described in so many negative adjectives by the international press.

Rowers Dang Thi Tham and Mai Thi Dung won the women's pair gold over Indonesia's Rita and Susilowati at the La Mesa dam in Novaliches, Quezon

Philippine shuttlers shut out

IT WAS MORE OR LESS EXPECTED, BUT GETting wiped out on the first day of singles action in badminton of the Southeast Asian Games at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City was still a numbing experience for the Philippines.

Irene Chiu and Vanessa Tanco provided the lone ray of hope in the morning by outclassing Thai princess Sirivannavarinariratana and Sujitra Ekmongkolpaisam, 15-0, 15-2, in the doubles, but it proved the only win for the RP team.

Chiu and Tanco then ran into Malaysia's Wong Pei Tty and Chin Eei Hui, who ended their bid, 15-4, 15-3, early last night.

Among the losers were the mixed doubles partnership of Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion, who bowed to Thais Songphol Anukritiyawon and Kunchala Voravichitchaikul, 17-14, 15-10.

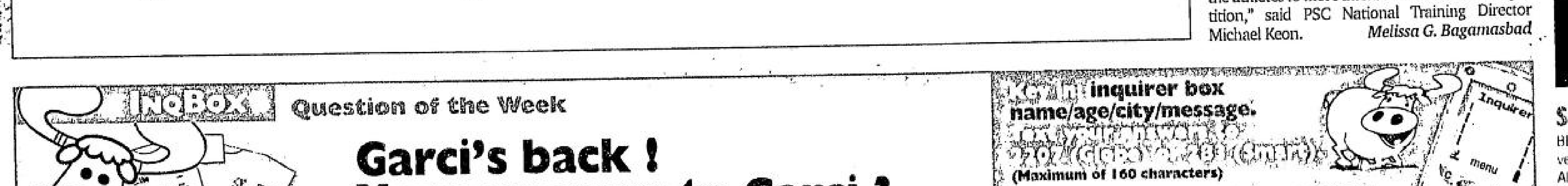
The Asuncions gave RP its lone medal, a bronze, in Vietnam two years ago.

Kennie Asuncion and Paula Obanana were ousted by Indons Jo Novita and Greysia Polii, 17-4, 15-2, while the men's doubles teams of Jaime Junio Jr. and Mark Alvin Natividad and Ian Piencenaves and Arolas Amahit Jr. lost in three sets.

Kennevic Asuncion and Wally Fernandez were likewise eliminated in the men's singles.

The Filipinos got shut out in the men's and women's team events earlier.

"What we have to do is to train under really good coaches and train overseas in places like China for a great duration of time and to expose the athletes to more intense international competition," said PSC National Training Director Michael Keon. *Melissa G. Bagamasbad*



Question of the Week

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RP golfers four behind despite Pagunsan's 69

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—JUVIC Pagunsan had an up-and-down round, settling for a one-under 69 for solo fourth in individual play, even as Singapore emerged as the surprise leader yesterday after 18 holes of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games golf tournament.

Pagunsan, who won the individual title when the sport was held in Malaysia in 2001, double-bogeyed the long par-4 eighth at The Country Club layout here, throwing away what could have been a tie for the lead with Choo Tze Huang of Singapore and Thien Zaw Myint of Myanmar, who both signed for 67s.

Choo's bogey-free round boosted the Singaporeans on top of the team race with an even 210 total, counting Leong Kit Waia's level 70 and Quek Peng Xianga's 73. Goh Kun Yang's 82 did not count for the leaders.

Burma (Myanmar) also benefitted from a strong opening-round by its spearhead Myint and stood three off the pace after Zaw Zin Win shot a 71 and Aung Win carded a 75.

The Philippines was third, four strokes adrift, after getting a 72 from former caddies' champion Jay Bayron and a 73 from Marvin Dumandan. Michael Bibat, the Singapore Amateur champion in 2004, failed to count with a 75.

Malaysia, led by David Leadbetter protege Ben Leong's 71, was another stroke behind the RP team. Mohd Sukree Othman and 2005 RP Amateur runner-up Siva Chandhran were the next best scorers with identical 72s.

The 27-year-old Pagunsan teed off in the back nine and birdied Nos. 10, 14 and 15 against bogeys on the 16th, which he three-putted, and the No. 18 where he pulled his drive and found the greenside bunker from the rough.

Pagunsan got back to three-under after birdieing Nos. 2 and 4 and seemed all set to coast the rest of the round until he missed his approach on No. 8 and failed to find the green from the deep rough.

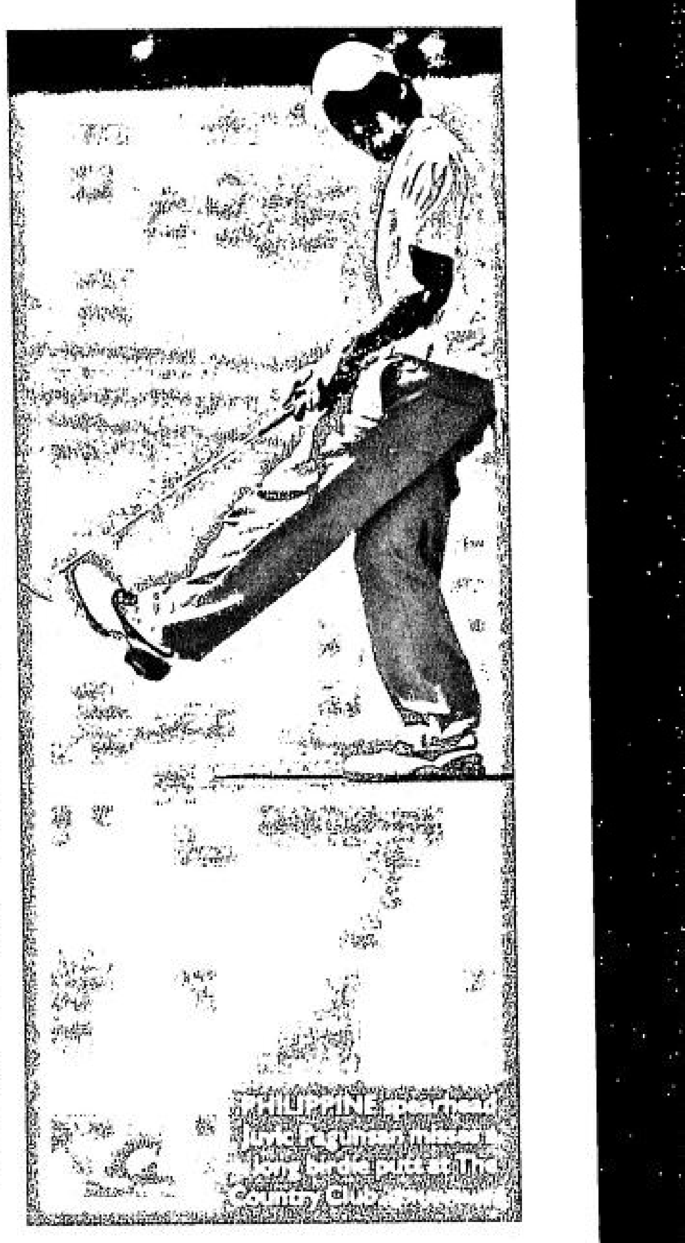
"I was just trying to make good shots," Pagunsan told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "I guess I got careless."

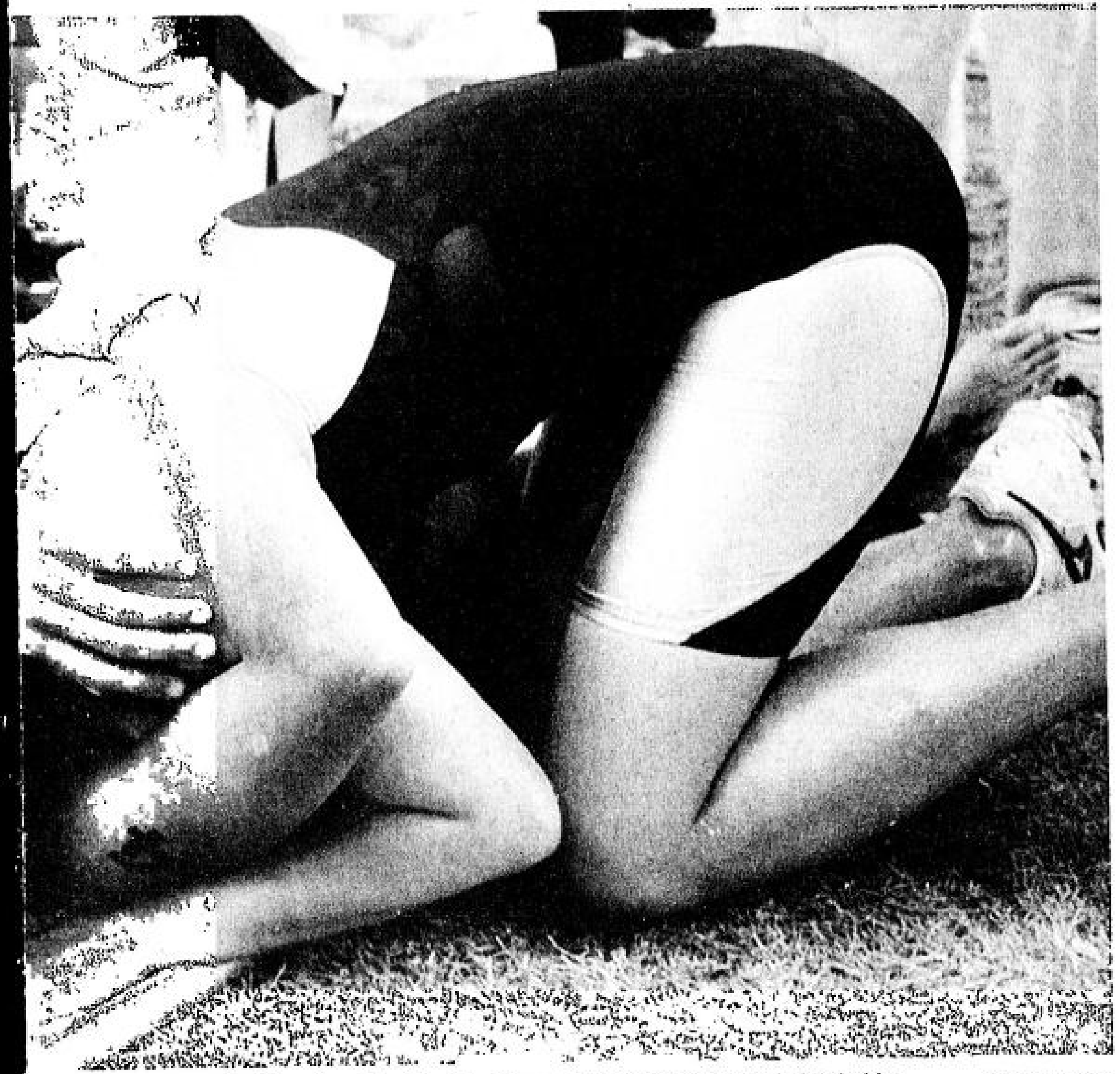
Only four players broke par at the windswept, 7,158-yard layout, with Waisayakul Ekalak firing a 68 for solo third while leading Thailand to fifth place with a 217 total.

Pornpong Phatlum turned in a 74 and Nakarintra Ratanakul submitted a 75 for the next two Thai scores. Former junior star Anujit Hirunratanakorn struggled all day and did not count with a 76.

Meanwhile, the RP team of Jayvie Marie Agojo, Anya Tanpinco and Frances Bondad starts its campaign together with five other teams as ladies action starts today.

The RP ladies' team, though young, is loaded with winning experience with Agojo and Bondad being the winners of the last two editions of the RP Ladies and both toughened by stints overseas.





(top) embrace each other after clinching the silver and bronze in the women's triathlon. ROMY HOMILLADA

ncork big rally ets slow down

23rd
SEA GAMES
Philippines 2005

City and cycling Mai Cong Hreiu triumphed in the men's ITT in Tagaytay for the Vietnamese.

Truong Minh Sang scored a 9.275 in the pommel horse and Nguyen Minh Tuan tied Thailand's Thitipong Sukdee for the gold in the rings with a score of 9.225.

Thailand actually picked up seven gold medals yesterday but still trailed the Philippines by a good 23 victories.

Although unable to match their sizzling gold-medal pace in the first three days, the Filipinos scrambled to pick up five victories at presstime.

Gymnast Roel Ramirez prevailed in the men's vault and floor exercise, Benjamin Tolentino Jr. captured a third rowing gold in partnership with Alvin Amposta in the men's lightweight double sculls, Helen Dawa prevailed in judo's women's 45-kg division and the men's team foil team in fencing pulled through.

The results in other events were not yet available at presstime and the INQUIRER gathered the latest medal count at the Team Philippines secretariat at the Rizal Memorial and at the main press center at the PICC.

Meanwhile, Charouck Arirachakaran, VP and secgen of the Thailand Olympic Committee, yesterday denied ever saying that cheating was rampant in these Games during the meeting of the SEAG Federation Council

"I have been a sportsman for more than 30 years and my friendship with Filipino sports officials is important to me," Arirachakaran was quoted by Philsoc Media Bureau head Clarito Samson.

"I am sorry for the statements that have been attributed to me by some newspapers. I deny having said or insinuated that there is cheating in the Southeast Asian Games."

Thilananh Nguyen, Vietnam's bet in the women's 48-kg event, broke a collarbone and was rushed to a local hospital where Philippine First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo attended to her.

Tolentino captures 3rd gold

BENJAMIN TOLENTINO JR. BECAME the second Filipino athlete to bag three gold medals in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday as he joined hands with Alvin Amposta to rule the men's lightweight double sculls at the La Mesa Dam Reservoir in Quezon City.

The veteran Tolentino, Jr. who captured two golds Wednesday, and Amposta clocked 6 minutes 50.16 seconds in ruling the event over Thailand's Ruthanapol Theppibal and Anupong Thainjan, who timed 6:54.18 for the silver. Jamaludin and Anang Mulyana of Indonesia finished third (6:57.36).

The Filipinos also picked up a silver through the team of Amposta, Joel Bagasbas, Nilo Cordova, and Nestor Cordova in the lightweight men's four and added three bronze medals that assured them of the overall title.

TOLENTINO JOAN BONDOC

All told, the Filipinos finished with a gold-silver-bronze haul of 3-1-3 against Thailand's 3-1-0. Indonesia was third at 2-4-2 followed by Vietnam (1-2-1), Singapore (0-1-1) and Burma (Myanmar) (0-0-2).

"This is a nice feeling," Tolentino said in Filipino. "I trained hard and I even had to lose weight to stay in shape."

The veteran Tolentino won the lightweight men's singles sculls and the men's pair with rowing team captain Jose Rodriguez Wednesday to match the three-gold output of diver Shiela Mae Perez.

Rodriguez finished behind winner Theppibal and Lasmin of Indonesia in the men's single scull while Cordova and Fornea placed in the women's pair event.

Rufino Lopez III, contributor

LINGS Kennie and Kennievic Asuncion in a losing effort in the mixed doubles. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

arcia nails squash bronze

ERTO GARCIA SALVAGED A BRONZE TO END THE PHILIPPINES' MEDAL DROUGHT IN
ish yesterday in the Southeast Asian Games at the Makati Sports Club. The 19-year-old Gar-
owed to a stronger and more experienced Mohd Nfiizwan bin Adnan of Malaysia in five sets,
5-9, 9-3, 7-9, 9-3, in the semifinals. Garcia suffered cramps late in the fourth set that eventu-
ed to his downfall in the final set. "It was a good match," coach Claudio Paganpan told the
IRER. "However, due to the long duration of the fight, Robert suffered cramps." It was the first
al for the Filipinos since the 1991 Games also hosted by the country. Ricky Espinola was
inated by Indon Borman Subroto also in a grueling five-set match, 1-9, 9-4, 9-6, 7-9, 2-9, in
uarterfinals. Lone female entry Regina Borromeo bowed to Indon Junieta Mokalu in three
ght sets last Tuesday. Sharon Wee of Malaysia bagged the women's singles gold over team-
e Tricia Chuah while Indonesians Junieta and Fanny Mokalu got the bronze. *Hazel Sanculi*

Golden Moments

Three-gold rower's trade secret

TO BE AN EFFICIENT ROWER, one must be as light as possible, but you must retain enough muscle to row your fastest. Benjamin Tolentino did both.

At the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, he showed that he can work alone or with a partner. Yesterday, he rowed to his third gold medal in the rowing competition at the La Mesa Dam by topping the lightweight double sculls event along with partner Alvin Amposta. He scored earlier victories in the men's lightweight singles sculls and in the men's coxless in tandem with Jose Rodriguez.

In winning the double sculls, he and Amposta clocked 6 minutes and 50.16 seconds, way ahead of Thailand's Ruthanapol Theppibal and Anupong Thainjan, who clocked 6:54.18.

"This is a nice feeling because I really worked hard for it," he said in Filipino. "It was a big sacrifice having to lose so much weight."

Rufino Lopez III

Pained win

LUCK COMES TO THOSE WHO persevere. Helen Dawa bucked an injury and salvaged a measure of pride for the RP judo team when she won the gold medal in the -45 kg division of the judo event.

Dawa outlasted Thailand's Wanwisa Muenjit but had to agonize during the long wait for the referees' final decision after the two were tied at the end of the golden score round. The outcome was left for the judges to decide.

"I really attacked a lot because I could not score easily," explained Dawa. "I just wanted to be aggressive so that in case there was a tie, I would have an advantage."

The ploy paid off as the two judges and the referee acknowledged her aggressiveness and gave her the unanimous victory.

Francis Ochoa

Runaway/tie

WHEN THEY JUST COULD NOT make up their mind, gymnastics judges have found a way to get out of a tight spot—give the gold medal to three competitors.

That's how they decided to resolve a potentially explosive conflict that involved Filipino Roel Ramirez.

Ramirez won two gold medals, one all his own and the other he had to share with two other competitors. The Filipino had run away with the gold the men's vault apparatus. But he had to share the floor exercise gold with the Malaysian and the Indonesian. This was after the other teams raised technical issues when Ramirez was earlier judged the winner.

Jasmine W. Payo

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A Games on ABC Sports

ACH VOLLEYBALL COMPETITIONS AT THE UNI-
ity of St. La Salle in Bacolod will be shown on
Sports today starting at 10 a.m. ABC Sports, the
broadcaster of the 23rd Southeast Asian
es, will also air badminton events from 2 to 4
while boxing will be the main course from 7
until midnight.

Bitbit puts away ITT silver; Davadilla fails to make dent

TAGAYTAY CITY—MOUNTAIN BIKE specialist Marites Bitbit salvaged a silver medal but the highly touted Warren Davadilla proved a flop yesterday at the start of cycling's road races in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The winner of the women's cross country gold in Danao Tuesday, Bitbit finished her first time trial in 1 hour 9 minutes and 53.09 seconds, 18.47 ticks off gold medalist Santia Tri Kusuma of Indonesia, who clocked 1:09:34.62 for the 34.5-km course.

Nguyen Thi Hoang Oanh of Malaysia grabbed the bronze in 1:10:00.32.

"It helped that I was able to rest on Wednesday," said Bitbit in Filipino. "It's a pity I didn't win the gold."

The highly rated Davadilla, the Golden Tour 50@05 champion last summer, was in dolorous form, finishing seventh in the men's 40-km individual time trial won by Vietnam's Mai Cong Hieu in 1:04:12.79.

Veteran Tonton Susanto of Indonesia wound up with the silver in 1:04:50.88 with Shahrulneza Razalli of Malaysia taking the bronze in 1:06:33.35.

Davadilla, the silver medalist in the 160-km road race in Vietnam two years ago, struggled home seventh in 1:08:46.10. He was even outshone by teammate Emelito Atilano, who landed fifth in 1:08:02.46.

Victor Espiritu, a crack time trial rider, placed second in the event in Vietnam but was not included in the RP team this time.

The hills of Tagaytay City did not slow down Bitbit as she overtook two other riders who were released before her from the starting line in Palico, Batangas.

Marita Del Rosario finished ninth in 1:17:21.54.

Action in the road races continues today with the 160-km massed start for men and the 69.5-km massed start for women where Bitbit will go for her third medal.

Reuben Ezra Terrado

VETERAN Marita Lucas is overcome with fatigue and collapses after reaching the finish in the 27-km ITT.

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Football final four: Thais battle Indons

BACOLOD CITY—THAILAND TRIES TO STAY on track for an unprecedented seventh straight Southeast Asian Games men's football crown at 4 p.m. today when it faces a dangerous Indonesian side in the semifinals at the Panaad Stadium.

Vietnam and Malaysia test each other's mettle in the other semifinal pairing at 7 p.m. with the winner advancing to the championship match on Sunday.

Thailand coach Chanvit Palajovin said his team has yet to show its best perfor mance, despite winning its first three games.

"Our performances in the group stages are very low compared to our standards," he said. "The players are overconfident and put more pressure on themselves to score because they think the opponents are weaker."

After surviving the Philippine challenge with a 1-0 decision, Thailand edged Malaysia, 2-1.

Indonesia's British coach Peter Withe said: "The Thai team has been together now for a long time. They have very experienced players." *Cedelf Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

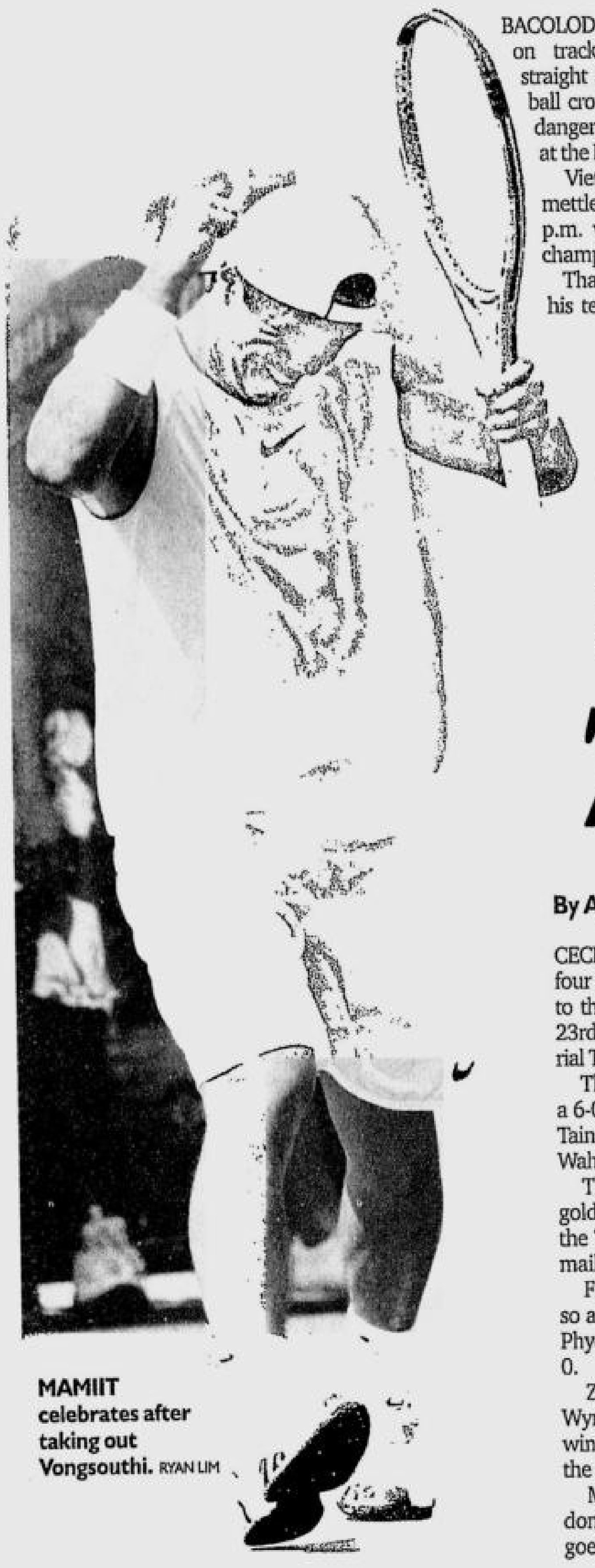
Malaysia shows way after first round in lawn bowls

ANGELES CITY—MALAYSIA yesterday dominated the 19 games making up the first round of the lawn bowls tournament of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Hidden Vale Sports Club here.

Malaysian players ruled the single, pair and triple games for both men and women. Thailand came in second followed by the Philippines.

In petanque, Thailand nipped Laos, 15-13, in women's single while Laos won by three points over Malaysia in the men's single.

The Philippine women's team, which began training only last January, placed third in the preliminaries. The RP men's team ranked sixth. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*


MAMIIT celebrates after taking out Vongsouthi. RYAN LIM

Mamiit, Taino stay unbeaten; Z'meda-Dy win

By Apolinario Mapacpac

CECIL MAMIIT AND ERIC TAINO SECURED THREE OF four tennis bronze medals for the Philippines by marching to the semifinals of the men's singles and doubles in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The second-seeded Mamiit showed impeccable form in a 6-0, 6-0 shutout of Vivongsay Vongsouthi of Laos while Taino was nearly as perfect with a 6-1, 6-0 rout of Sunu Wahy Trijati of Indonesia, 6-1, 6-0.

The two Fil-Am, who clinched the country's first team gold ever in the SEAG last Monday, then combined to oust the Thailand pair of Danai Udomchoke-Weerapat Doakmailee tandem, 6-2, 6-3.

Fil-Americans Riza Angela Zalameda and Denise Dy also assured themselves of a bronze by ripping the Su Wai Phyo-Kyi Mya Zaw team from Burma (Myanmar), 6-0, 6-0.

Zalameda and Dy next face the top-seeded pair of Wynne Prakusya and Romana Tedjakusuma, a 6-2, 6-0 winner over Viet Ha-Ngo and Kim-Loi Tran of Vietnam in the semifinals.

Mamiit faces No. 4 Prima Simpatiaji today after the Indon blasted Vietnamese Quang Huy Ngo, 6-2, 6-2. Taino goes up against top seed Danai Udomchoke of Thailand, the world No. 129.

Udomchoke, who missed the men's team event and arrived in the country just in time for the singles' draw, also took out another Vietnamese, Minh Quan Do, 6-2, 6-3.

"I expect both of us to be in the gold medal match in every event we are in," Taino said, referring to his and Mamiit's chances of winning more gold medals. "And it would be good if we play each other in the singles (finals)."

Mamiit and Taino will take on Simpatiaji and Trijati of Indonesia in the semis. The Indon pair advanced by booting out the Vongsouthi-Vienthay Theopsouvanh pair from Laos, 6-3, 6-4.

Johnny Arcilla and Patrick John Tierro, the other RP doubles players, were not as fortunate.

After taking the first set against Suwandi Suwandi and Bonit Wiryawan, the homegrown pair simply could not put away the veteran Indon combine and eventually bowed out, 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, in a match that lasted more than two hours on center court.

The Philippines, which bagged only one bronze two years ago, is hoping to duplicate its success in 1991 when Felix Barrientos won three golds—singles, the men's doubles with Roland So and the mixed doubles with Jennifer Saberon.

CJ SUAREZ gets a kiss from father Teody and mother Rose after he won the men's doubles gold with Jonee Gatchalian Wednesday. RUDY ESPERAS

Bowlers settle for 2 silvers in trios event

FILIPINO BOWLERS SETTLED FOR TWO silver medals in the men's and women's trios event of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games bowling competition yesterday at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque.

The Malaysian men captured their first gold medal even as the Indonesian ladies uncorked a last-gasp rally to give their country a third gold and the overall leadership over the Philippines.

Malaysia's Zulkifli Zulmazran, Aaron Kong, and Daniel Lim blew the competition away with a fiery 746 in the fourth game and finished with a total of 4112.

The Philippines' Chester King, Ernesto Gatchalian, and CJ Suarez took the silver with 4020 pinfalls a 743 in the sixth game.

Novie Phang led Indonesia's attack in the sixth game scoring 280 pinfalls where she made 11 strikes while her teammates Happy Soediyono and Putty Armein contributed scores of 224 and 235 to finish with a six-game series of 4060 for the gold.

The team of 2003 World Championships gold medalists Liza del Rosario, Liza Clutario, and Cecilia Yap had an 82-point advantage going into the last game but submitted their lowest total of 585 pinfalls to end up with the silver at 3988.

Yap, who already has one gold and two silver medals to her name, scored a rare perfect game in the third frame.

"It's probably beyond my control because they [Indonesians] bowled better [in the last game]," said Del Rosario, the 2003 Asian bowler of the year, regarding the bad break they had after losing the gold medal.

Malaysia's Zandra Aziela, Wendy Chai, and Esther Cheah took the bronze with 3840 pinfalls.

Soediyono and Armein won their second gold medal in the meet after their victory yesterday in the doubles event.

The other Malaysian team of Ameran Azidi, Alex Liew, and Ben Heng placed third after finishing with 3914 pinfalls in the men's trios. *Eric C. Abenojar*

4 RP pairs gain beach volley quarters

BACOLOD CITY—FILIPINO-AMERICAN JUSTIN Schonor overcame a bum stomach to power his partnership with Chad Mowrey into the quarterfinals in the company of three other Philippine teams in the Southeast Asian Games beach volleyball tournament at the St. La Salle sand field here.

After coming up with a so-so performance in a 13-21, 18-21 loss to Thailand 2, Schonor and Mowrey vented their ire on the hapless Cambodian duo of Koung Sopheap and Som Cham Nap to claim a seat in the last 8.

"Justin was actually confined in a hospital Wednesday night and he looked very weak against the Thais," said RP coach Rustico Camangian.

"But he and Chad really wanted to win against Cambodia. I admire their determination for that," he added.

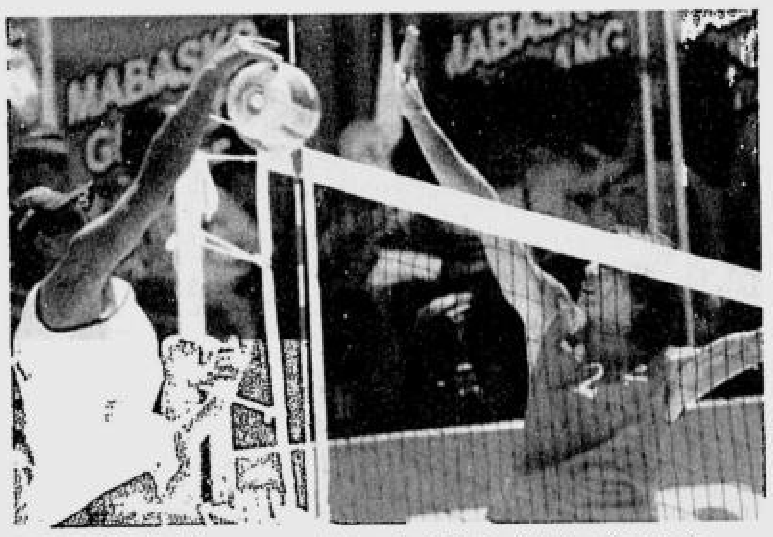
Parley Tupaz and Rhovyl Verayo continued to struggle, however, absorbing a 21-11, 21-14 setback at the hands of Busan Asian Games silver medalists Koko Prasetyo Darkuncoro and Agus Salim of Indonesia.

Despite falling to a second straight loss, homegrown bets Parley Tupaz and Rhovyl Verayo still qualified for the quarterfinals just like Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena in the women's pool A.

Also entering the quarterfinals was the pair of Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua, who made quick work of Luk Ten Eng and Beh Shun Ting of Malaysia 1, 21-7, 21-14, for a second straight win in Pool B.

"We just want to rank better so we would be playing weaker teams in the quarterfinals," Ilustre said.

The quarterfinal round is set today with the top ranked team playing No. 8, No. 2 facing No. 7, No. 3 meeting No. 6 and No. 4 clashing with No. 5. *Cedelf Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*


SCHONOR (left) scores a point against Malaysia's Lee Kwong in their game Wednesday. Schonor and Mowrey won. REM ZAMORA

CHERRY Rose Macatangay (11) shames the Indonesian defense in their recent game at the West Negros College in Bacolod City. The Filipinas, who bowed to the Vietnamese in four sets Tuesday, try to stay in contention for a gold medal today when they collide with defending champion Thailand in the elimination round of the 23rd SEA Games women's volleyball tournament. Gametime is 3:30 p.m. REM ZAMORA

Camp John Hay seniors score 42-point victory

BAGUIO CITY—CAMP JOHN HAY AND CAMP Aguinaldo carded 129 and 85, respectively, yesterday to emerge the biggest winners in the second Senior Fil-Am Invitational in two venues here.

John Hay posted the best round of the tournament on Fred Puckett's 36, the 33 of Nelson Eslao, Clyde Cabreros' 31 and the 29 of either Bong Mandapat or Bob Paterson that got them running away with the Fil Division team title by 42 points.

Together with their earlier efforts of 96, 103 and 117, the John Hay bets wound up with 445, winning by 42 points over Villamor (99-403).

Puckett made it a double for Camp John Hay when he nipped Col. Rico Javier of Villamor in a countback for the individual title.

Defending champion Manila Southwoods made 95-399 to settle for third.

Over at the Baguio Country Club course, Clyde Fernandez tallied with 25 points, Frank Manalo and Narciso San Juan contributed 21 apiece and Leoncio Valderama added 18 as Camp Aguinaldo won their second straight Am Division crown.

The Aguinaldo wound up with 313 to share the spotlight with Camp John Hay in the event backed by Smart, Wilson Sports, Eva Air and Club Car as major sponsors.

Meanwhile, National Bureau of Investigation's Noel Ceriola aced John Hay's par-3, 180-yard fourth hole Wednesday during the final round in the Fil Division Flight F of the 56th regular event.

Ceriola became the first claimant to a round-trip ticket to London from Eva Air, according to tournament coordinator Nanette Filler. Ceriola will get the prize only if no else scores an ace in the regular event. In case there are two or more acemakers, the prize would be raffled off.

James Alviar also shot a hole-in-one at John Hay's par-3, 11th, but there was no prize staked on the hole. His 17-point effort, however, helped Pines Golf of California win the Am Division Flight A crown.

Danny Pizarro of Mizuno-Riviera topped the Fil Division Class A individual event while Luis Sison of Baguio Country Club ruled Class B.

Puno Cup cage meet unwraps at Ynares today

ANTIPOLO CITY—THE FIRST NATURE'S Spring-backed National Basketball Conference pre-season tournament called the NBC-ABL Rep. Ronnie Puno Cup unwraps today with four matches at the Ynares Center here.

It will be Antips against Bacchus-Metro Manila at 10 a.m. Vic Sumulong Ex-PBA All Stars against Spring Cooking Oil at 12 noon, Boysen Phils.-backed Pice-Rizal against Forward Taguig at 2 p.m. and Homer Cagers against Skygo/Sirlitz-supported Tribu Sugbu at 4.

Rep. Ronnie Puno and Vic Sumulong will grace the opening ceremony at 9 a.m.

There will be fun games for the fans after the simple opening rites, according to Councilor Ronaldo Leyva and Antipolo Basketball League commissioner Gilbert Dulfo.

"We're glad to have the first NBC pre-season tournament here. I hope that we'll draw a good attendance to support our local teams in preparation for our entry in the next NBC season," said Puno.

Figueroa, 3 others reach medal round

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—JASMINE Figueroa survived her initial test in the Olympic phase of the women's individual recurve yesterday to advance to the medal round of the archery competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

But the biggest challenge for the country's top archer will come today when Figueroa meets 2003 Vietnam Games gold medalist Rina Dewi Puspita in a bid to assure herself of a bronze medal.

Ranked eighth in the seedings, Figueroa downed ninth-seeded Chutinan Sakulchai, 135-123, to arrange a clash with Puspita, who topped the qualifying and scored an overwhelming 155-125 win over Cau Thi Soahn of Vietnam.

Rachelle Anne Cabral joined Figueroa in the next round after beating Thailand's Sirilak Suksamorn, 145-142, in the 36-arrow, 70-meter target competition. *June Navarro*

Spring secures first Picaa finals berth

SPRING COOKING OIL BANKED on a strong finish to overpower Wang's Ballclub-RTU, 81-61, and clinch the first finals berth in the 2005 Picaa Open basketball tournament at the Philippine Buddhacare gym in Quezon City.

Derrick Hubalde, Rodel Manuel and MC Caceres combined for 34 points for Spring, which outgunned Wang's, 30-15, in the final quarter to turn a close contest into a rout.

Hubalde had 12 points while Manuel and Caceres had 11 apiece.

The Cooking Oil Masters of shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and coach Efren "Yong" Garcia will meet either King's Bakeshop or Mediatrix in the finals of the tourney sponsored by Hang Ten, Chloe Lightings, Absorba Sportswear and Tomish Cafe (Dapitan).

Mediatrix shocked King's Bakeshop, 83-81, in the other game to force a showdown for the second finals slot.

Pabillore's hard work finally bears fruit

By Francis Ochoa

CEBU CITY—THERE WAS A TIME LATE IN HER teens when Maria Marna Pabillore felt like giving up.

Karate was burning up hours she could have spent in school or with friends, her body was getting too tired and beaten up and there was just no return on the investment she made in the sport.

"It was a really tough time," she said, speaking in the Visayan dialect. "I just wanted to quit. I was getting tired."

Her high school classmates from Montessori de Oro in the Mindanao port city of Cagayan de Oro, who came to cheer her at the Mandaue City sports complex, spoke of the times when she'd go to class with weariness and surrender written all over her or when she'd have to climb fences just to be able to go out with friends.

They spoke of someone who hardly knew what the rigorous training meant in her life. Late Monday afternoon, cocooned in the din of an appreciative crowd and illuminated by exploding flashbulbs, Pabillore finally understood.

"Suddenly, everything was worth it," she said, almost in a whisper.

After years of frustration which included paying for her own training, Pabillore's efforts finally bore fruit. And despite her belated appreciation of the hardships she went through, Pabillore now knows that the sweetness she is currently savoring is a result of all those trials.

"Having this," she said, clutching tightly a shiny gold medal with two hands while wearing a distant look in her face, "is a lot more special because of all the hard work and determination I put in the sport."

All the hard work started at age 13. Thrust into the sport because of her family's affinity to it—Pabillore's sister, Victoria, was also a national athlete and the family runs a karate school—Pabillore began training religiously to make it to the national team.

Now 25, all that training is starting to show, not just in her skills, one that propelled her to a first SEAG gold, but also in the way she carries herself. Half the time, she is playful, laughing and joking around with people. Half the time, she wears the stolid look of one aged by the dedicated quest to perfect her craft.

It was the latter half of her that reined in her expectations for the SEA Games. Despite winning the bronze in 2001 and the silver two years later, she refused to put her faith in the upswing trend of her fate.

"I never expected to win," she said. "If you expect too much, you open yourself up to more disappointment."

But she did win, topping the women's -53kg individual kumite. A friend, who she once shared her frustrations with one windswept afternoon at a beach in Cagayan de Oro, could not help but shed tears after her triumph.

When Pabillore carefully tucked the medal in a gym bag, she hugged that friend tightly and broke into a wide smile. It was a smile of a person who finally understood the meaning of all that hard work.

PABILLORE: Everything's worth it. CDN PHOTO/UTO TECSON

JUDO IN CEBU

Injured Dawa captures gold

CEBU CITY—IT TOOK AN ATHLETE WITH rickety knees to provide the RP judo squad with one shining moment yesterday.

Veteran Helen Dawa sucked up the pain of an old hurt and won a gold medal in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Mandaue City sports complex on a day when the country's pencak silat athletes took it flush on the chin and settled for a trio of third-place finishes.

Dawa gave the Philippines its first gold in judo by outlasting Thailand's Wanwisa Muenjit in the finals of the -45 kg division, but needed to agonize over waiting for the referees' final decision after both players remained tied at the end of the golden score round.

"I was really nervous because my chances against my opponent were only 50-50," Dawa said in Filipino.

But the two judges and the head referee tilted the scales to her favor by unanimously awarding the victory to Dawa, citing her aggressiveness throughout the match.

"I really attacked a lot because I could not score easily," explained Dawa. "I just wanted to be aggressive so that in case there is a tie, I already have an advantage."

Dawa won the gold despite re-injuring a knee that got hurt during the team's training in Japan.

"I knew it was going to be a nuisance, but I just shrugged off the pain," said the Baguio-bred Dawa, who was rushed to the medical booth after the match to have her knees checked.

Nancy Qiuillotes failed to complete a back-to-back gold finish for the Philippines as she bowed down to Vietnam's Van Ngoc Tu in the championship round of the -48 kg division.

In the men's side, Filipino judokas failed to make it to the final round as Tomohiko Hoshina settled for the bronze and Rick Senales crashed out in the elimination round.

The Filipino-Japanese Hoshina easily crushed Khemhkham Kommanivong of Laos in the bronze medal match of the +100 kg category.

DAWA: Really nervous. CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

At the Cebu Coliseum, Marniel Dimla and Annaliza Bea gave the country two chances at the gold medal by advancing to the pencak silat finals in their respective categories.

The 32-year-old Dimla, a native of Cebu and a 13-year veteran of the team, defeated Thailand's Pojanan Satha, 5-0, in class F (70-75 kg), while Bea, 28, vanquished Siti Jameela Md. Japilus of Malaysia, 5-0, in semifinal action yesterday.

Dimla faces tough odds in the final as he will be ranged against three-time world champion Dinh Cong Son of Vietnam, who has yet to taste defeat in the SEA Games since 1997.

But what was supposed to be a romp into the finals by the Philippines was cut short, at least for three fighters as Jul Omar Abdulhakim, Juvy Jumuad and Nerlyn Huinda had to settle for bronze medals after losing their respective semifinal matches. *Brian Ochoa, Jonas Panerio, Cebu Daily News and Marc Anthony Camasura*

Thai sailors close in on Singaporeans

SUBIC BAY, OLONGAPO CITY— THE winds may not have been great for sailing, but Thailand still inched closer behind Singapore after the third day of races in the Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Subic Bay Yacht Club.

Singapore held on to the lead in five classes after Nay La Kyaw and Min Min of Burma (Myanmar) moved ahead of Singapore's Teo Wee Chin and Terence Koh Seng Kiat in the 420 category.

Thailand continued to lead three classes after the provisional results were released.

Dawn Liu Xiaodan and Sibhan Tam Shiu Wun continued to pace the 420 girls, and Lo Man Yi had a comfortable lead over Malaysia's Tiffany Koo Yee Chin in the Laser women. Xu Yuan Zhan and Justin Wong Ning Ho also paced the 420 open, but Thailand's Wiwat Poonpat and Kitipong Khambang were threatening to take the class following three solid races yesterday. *Jose Paolo Lacdao*

Congress should reward RP athletes for job well done

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR GRITTY athletes in the ongoing 23rd Southeast Asian Games did not only inspire and unify our divided people, but also enabled millions of people all over the world to see that the Filipino is kind and friendly, and has the inborn creativity, resilience and courage to cope with the most challenging situations. The goodwill generated for the country is immeasurable. The athletes must therefore be rewarded for their accomplishments.

Thus, I do not buy the Thai allegations that the Philippines cheated just to lead the SEA Games medal race. It is unfair to the athletes. If every time we lose (Thailand is running a poor third in this year's SEAG) we blame somebody, that is poor sportsmanship. We should learn to accept defeat graciously. We should accept the maxim that simplifies sports adjudication. It is a simplicity in procedure which we ought to idealize or aim for.

Philsoc chair Peping Cojuangco said that while the Philippines is hosting the Games, the officiating for each event is conducted by neutral judges and adjudicators. Just to illustrate: In dance sport held under the aegis of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, Filipino organizers invited five licensed European adjudicators from the International Dance Sport Federation to act as judges. These adjudicators, by the way, are not only highly qualified, but also much respected because most of them are MBA degree holders.

"We always invited distinguished foreign adjudicators to come here to ensure fairness, honesty and camaraderie," said DSCP president Becky Garcia. Filipino dance athletes by the way swept the SEAG gold and silver medals in both the Latin and Standard categories. Finishing 1-2 in Latin were veteran internationalists Michael Mendoza and Belinda Ador and John Erolle Melencio and Dearlie Gerodias, respectively.

In the Standard division, the winners were Rico Rosima and Filomena Salvador (gold) and Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete (silver).

Sports development is a primary responsibility of the government. Hence, the government is responsible for the upkeep of its athletes. But how come Congress is slashing, instead of increasing, the proposed budget for the Philippine Sports Commission, the agency tasked with funding the national athletes? As a longtime sports follower, I say it is not a good idea to be niggardly in providing funds for the athletes, who will one day win that elusive Olympic gold.

That is why I am supporting Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, who is opposing the bill that would slash the 2006 PSC budget to a measly P27 million from the present P70 million. In 2004, the PSC budget was P107 million and more than P130 million in 2003.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez said their hands are tied with a paltry budget. "I don't know how we can win medals in the Olympic Games with this kind of budget."

Sports has always played a prominent role in every country of the world, whatever its political or religious persuasion. For example, in 2002 when South Korea cohosted (with Japan) the World Cup of football, it was a nation sundered by violent demonstration and labor unrest. Then the World Cup games began. When the unheralded South Korean national team started beating top European teams, the South Korean people celebrated the upset victories in a way that their government could not imagine to be possible. In the millions, they danced in the streets day and night, celebrating the victories of their team. The civil society unrest was very soon forgetten—all because of sports.

Two Thai officials sacked

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—THAILAND PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra might as well check on his men in the ongoing 23rd Southeast Asian Games aquatics competitions here.

At least two of Thai aquatics officials have been sanctioned by the Fina (international aquatics federation) for "shady judging," among other things, according to Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph yesterday.

The Thai chief executive, who hinted that the Philippines is cheating in the ongoing Games, "probably doesn't know that in aquatics, the only judge disciplined by the Fina neutral referee for shady judging, obviously favoring his own diver, was fromThailand," according to Joseph.

The said referee was disciplined by Fina referee Robin Hood of New Zealand, he added.

In water polo, Joseph said another Thai referee was banned from the deck because of "intentional bad calls and unfair player exclusions."

The referee "destroyed the Vietnam team" and was never allowed to be on the deck again by Fina neutral delegate Khosrow Amini of Iran, he said.

Joseph, however, refused to name the two Thai referees.

"Mr. Thaksin, as a head of state, was being very unfair by engaging in innuendo and sourgraping," said Joseph. "We have the computerized judges analysis to make him eat his words."

Marksmen Padilla, Concepcion off target

VETERANS NATHANIEL "TAC" PADILLA AND EMERITO Concepcion finished out of the medal in their respective shooting events in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the PSC-PNSA shooting range in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Padilla finished sixth in the men's 25-meter standard pistol with 550 points while Concepcion ended up fourth in the men's 10-meter air rifle with 687.3. Jakkrit Panichpatikum of Thailand scored 567 points for the standard pistol gold, and Nguyen Manh Tuong of Vietnam grabbed the silver with 561. Tavarit Majcharcheep of Thailand garnered the gold in the 10m air rifle with 697.1 points. *JP Abcede*

Blu Girls blank Thais; RP men rap Malaysia

THE PHILIPPINES PRESSED ITS bid for a softball double as the Blu Girls got going by whitewashing Thailand, 8-0, yesterday in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The defending champion Blu Girls, unbeaten in the sports, displayed superior hitting to back up their strong pitching before a cheering crowd.

The Blu Boys later scored their second straight victory against the hapless Malaysians, 7-0.

The RP batters opened their bid for the men's softball crown with a 4-0 rout of Indonesia, which upset the Filipinos for the title when the event was last held in Jakarta in 1997.

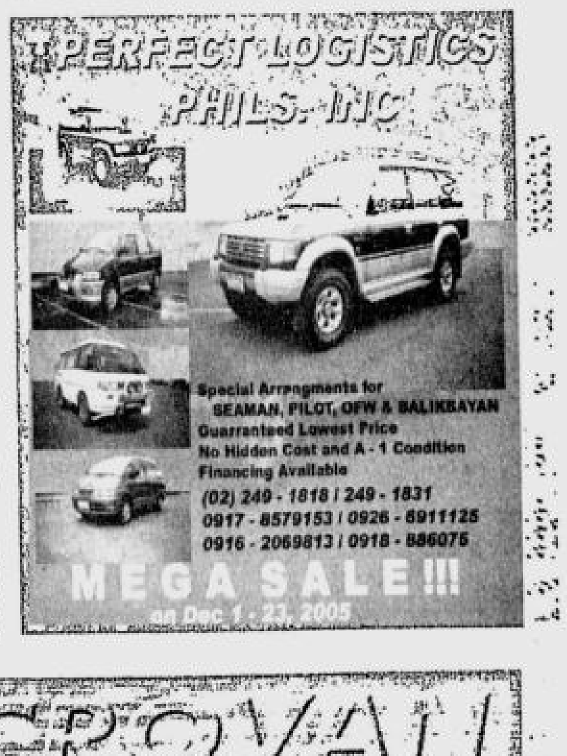
Indonesia bounced back from their loss to RP Wednesday by cruising past Malaysia, 9-0.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo watched the action along with International Softball Federation president Don E. Porter, and Pasig City local government officials.

Filipino athletes, who scored home runs were given a P3,000-bonus by softball president Harry Angping.

Gina Salvador, Elaine Caladiao and Joan Locsin paced the Blu Girls' hot hitting.

"I did not expect a flawless win but I am glad they made it," Blu Girls coach Rolly Malaguit said. *Llanesca Panti*



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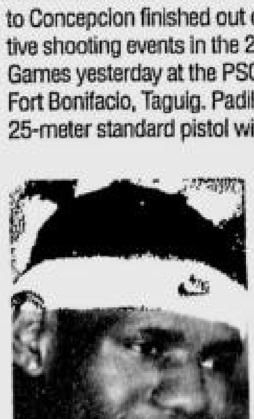

JAMES

Marshall keys Cleveland triumph

CLEVELAND—DONYELL MARSHALL made a key three-point play in regulation, then hit consecutive 3-pointers in overtime to help the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Los Angeles Clippers, 112-105, in the NBA on Wednesday.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 29 points before fouling out in overtime and LeBron James added 28 for Cleveland, which broke a two-game losing streak and improved to 7-1 at home.

Elton Brand scored 33 points, Sam Cassell had 26 to lead Los Angeles.

Marshall was 1-for-7 before running down the baseline to put back a missed 3-pointer by Larry Hughes with 47 seconds left in the fourth quarter. He tacked on a free throw to tie it at 95.

Brand had a chance to win the game in regulation, as his driving jumper in the lane misfired and James grabbed the rebound as time ran out.

In other games, Miami whipped Atlanta, 96-74; Memphis crushed Toronto, 92-66; Washington defeated Portland, 96-89; New York tripped Chicago, 109-101; Boston halted Philadelphia, 110-103; Detroit stopped New Jersey, 93-83; Phoenix routed Indiana, 109-91; New Orleans surprised Denver, 102-95; Seattle dumped Charlotte, 104-94 and Golden State turned back Sacramento, 113-106.

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas had 28 points and five assists, leading the Wizards over road weary Portland. *AP*

Antonio, 2 other Filipinos gain blitz semis

Elimination round standings

Men's division: 9.5 Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son (Vie), 8.5 Nguyen An Dung (Vie), Le Quang Liem (Vie), 7.5 Joey Antonio (RP), 7 Oliver Dimakiling (RP); Women's division: 8 Nguyen Quyn Anh (Vie), Hoang Thi Bao Tram (Vie), Nguyen Thi Than An (Vie), 7.5 Catherine Pereña (RP), Lindiawati Evi (Ina)

ANTONIO

TAGAYTAY CITY—Filipino grandmaster Joey Antonio Jr., FIDE Master Oliver Dimakiling and Woman National Master Catherine Pereña hurdled their final round rivals yesterday to reach the semifinals of the blitz-individual event of the chess competitions in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

Antonio beat FIDE Master Nicolas Chan in their Nimzo Indian duel and finished in fourth place with 7.5 points after the pre-qualifying stage using the 11-round Swiss format.

Dimakiling trounced IM Nathanael Situru of Indonesia to actually place fifth with 7 points, but made the semis due to the rule that allows only the top two players per country for the medal round tomorrow.

WNM Perena defeated Indonesian Irine Kharishma Sukandar to score 7.5 points and land fourth in the women's blitz-chess to reach the next stage. Makiling and Antonio face Vietnamese foes Nguyen Ngoc Truong and Son Nguyen An Dung, respectively. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Paragua, Dreev clash in playoff

FILIPINO GM MARK PARAGUA AND SUPER GM Alexey Dreev of Russia drew their second game late Thursday, necessitating a playoff in the 2005 World Chess Cup at the Khanty-Mansyik, West Siberia, Russia.

Paragua and Dreev, the world's 12th ranked player, agreed to a 13- move draw of a Slav Defense.

With their one-one standoff, Paragua and Dreev will be forced to play two rapid games tonight at 25 minutes per player with 10-second increments.

They also drew their first game late Wednesday after 68 moves of a Queen's Gambit Accepted.

If Paragua upsets Dreev, he will face the winner between Super GM Giovanni Vescovi of Brazil and former world junior champion GM Pentala Hariskrishna of India. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

St. Scholastica's centennial run up

THE FUN RUN THAT WILL BEGIN FESTIVITIES for the centennial year of St. Scholasticas's College kicks off tomorrow at the Cultural Center Complex in Pasay City.

About 7,000 students, parents, personnel, alumnae and school officials are joining the run billed as "Takbo Para sa St. Scho!" It will be followed by a 99-car motorcade to St. Scholastica and a full-day's program of special activities.

The run starts at the Vicente Sotto corner Magdalena Jalandoni streets and proceeds to Roxas Boulevard. Runners turn right on the southbound side of the boulevard and continue on toward Parañaque City.

Runners in the 3K event will make the turn around after the Buendia flyover, 5K runners across the Hyatt Hotel, and the 10K runners at the Naia Road in Parañaque City.

Organizers advise participants to be at Vicente Sotto Street not later than 5 a.m. for assembly and pre-race briefings. The race starts at 6 a.m.

110 fights in Pasay derby

A FIGHT program featuring 110-plus fights is on tap in the "Balahara 4-Cock Derby which sizzles at 4 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Tony Panoplo of Batangas, a runner-up in the recent 2005 Bakbakan 9-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum, is hosting today's derby that offers a guaranteed prize of P500,000 to the winners. Early favorites are the entries of Mayor Nene Aguilar, Pepito Ngo, Patrick Antonio, Muroy Dolorico, Gerry Ramos, Jake Macasaet and the WTJ Group. Up next at the Pasay venue is another 4-cock derby on Dec. 9 by the Pasay Employees and the "Pasko Sa Pasay 5-Cock Derby on Dec. 16 and 18. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-746 or 816-6750.

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'Maximo' is Best Film in Singapore fest

... and Viennale critic raves about 'Ebolusyon' and 'Masahista'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AURAEUS SOLITO's "ANG Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" won Best Film at the Asian Festival of First Films on Wednesday, topping 22 finalists and picked from 233 entries from all over the world.

According to its web site, the AFFF "celebrates the best of first-time films [made by artists of] Asian descent." This is the festival's inaugural year.

Among the jurors were National Geographic exec Bryan Smith of Australia, writer-actor Teddy Chen of Hong Kong, and filmmakers Pan Nalin of France, Sudhir Mishra of India and Peter Friedman of the United States.

'Maximo' producer Raymond Lee was ecstatic. From Singapore's Victoria Theater, Lee told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview: "We got the top prize!"

Lee reported that after Singapore, "Maximo" will participate in at least three more film fests—Sundance, Hong Kong and San Francisco. Added sales agent Ferdie Lapuz, "We also clinched distribution deals in France, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg and French Canada."

Little 'ambassadors'

Meanwhile, Pinoy digital films continue to make waves abroad.

Lav Diaz's "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino," which was shown in at least four countries in Europe in the last two months—the 32nd Flanders International Film Festival in Ghent, Belgium (Oct. 18), the Viennale or Vienna International Film Festival in Vienna, Austria (Oct. 23), the House of World Cultures in Berlin, Germany (Oct. 29) and the 23rd Torino Film Festival in Italy (Nov. 11-19)—was the subject of a rave review by a member of the International Federation of Film Critics (Fipresci).

Quipped Paul Tañedo, producer: "We feel like a little ambassador for the Philippines... [proudly spreading the word] that filmmaking is alive and well in our country."

In his review of the Viennale on the Fipresci website, Gunnar Landsgesell singled out Diaz's work. He wrote: "[The festival] seems to have reached a remarkable level of a lively, direct cinema culture... symbolized by the screening of Lav Diaz's 11-hour family anthology 'Ebolusyon'... shown free... in the Stadkino. In raw black-and-white images, Diaz associates the destiny of a family with state politics by mainly showing how infrastructural deficits and oppression of the far-off Manila-based administration affect people's daily lives."

Brilliantly composed

Another Filipino film shown in Vienna was Brillante Mendoza's "Masahista," which took the Golden Leopard at the 58th Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland last August. It tied for the top video prize with "Les États Nordiques," directed by Denis Côté of Canada.

Landsgesell called "Masahista" a "brilliantly composed film... [in which] the human body is dialectically revealed as an artifact of both life and death."

"Masahista" was among the 12 films included in a special program dubbed "Propositions."

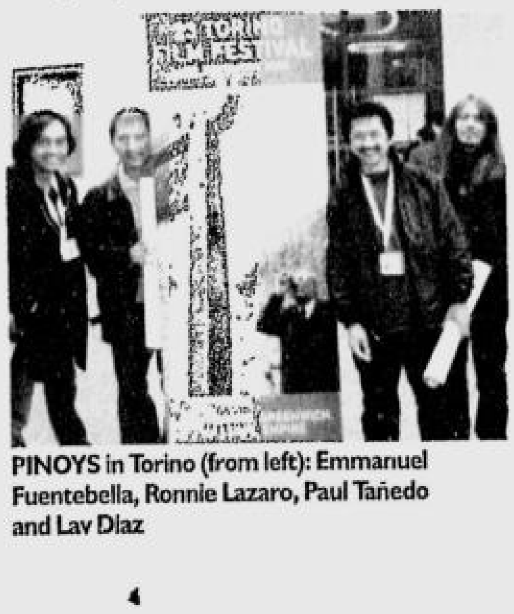
The Viennale, according to Landsgesell, focuses on films "with a rather unusual approach, a special semiotic and political attitude, introducing to and expanding the festival's whole idea of an essential world cinema."

Apart from Viennale, "Masahista" was also shown last month in Thessanoliki, Greece (Nov. 21) and the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (Nov. 27).

Recalled Mendoza: "As the closing film in Hong Kong, we originally had only one screening. But organizers had to add another one because of the big turnout. Both screenings were sold out."

Next stop for "Masahista" are Estonia in December; and Jeonju, South Korea; Tokyo, Japan; and Buenos Aires, Argentina next year. Also scheduled are screenings in Lisbon, Portugal; Istanbul, Turkey; London, United Kingdom; and Sydney, Australia. The movie will also compete at the 21st Turin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in Italy in April 2006.

"Masahista's" regular showing in the United States, under distributor Picture This! Entertainment, will begin in spring 2006. It will also have regular runs in French- and German-speaking territories in Europe next year.



PINOYS in Torino (from left): Emmanuel Fuentebella, Ronnie Lazaro, Paul Tañedo and Lav Diaz

"Masahista" stars Jaclyn Jose, Alan Paule and Coco Martin; Nathan Lopez as Maximo: "We won!"

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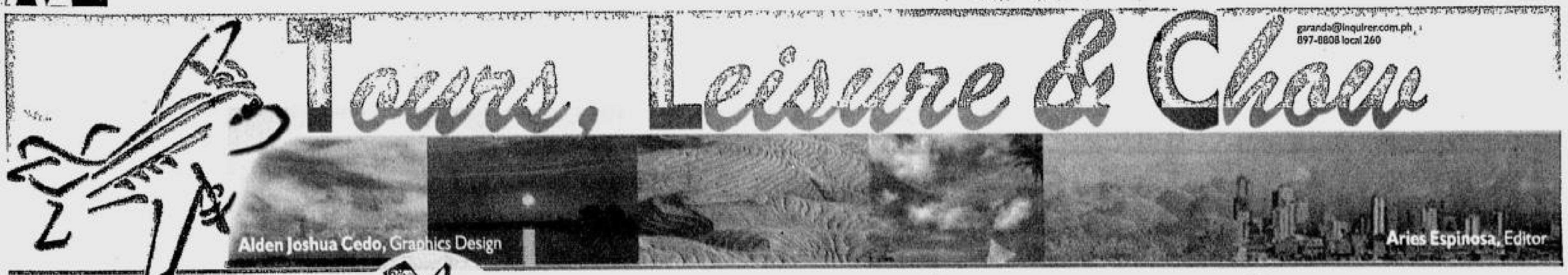

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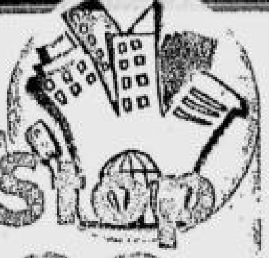

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Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

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Fax. (074) 446-0704
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Joys and nostalgia at Dusit Hotel Nikko

HAVE A FEEL AND TASTE OF CHRISTMAS as Dusit Hotel Nikko makes its presence felt amidst the hotel's luxurious interiors through its rustic decors, the soothing chants of the Children's Chorale and sumptuous holiday food offerings.

The hotel's celebrated Chefs have whipped up superb food offerings to satisfy your appetite and tickle your palates for the Yuletide season. With the family in mind, the hotel has prepared culinary delights that complements the Christmas tradition of a hefty family dining experience with wide selections of authentic cuisine from its Asian specialty restaurants.

Food is best enjoyed when you dine with friends and family. That is why The Café treats diners with special perks this merry month of December. Guests dining with a minimum of five persons availing of the lunch or dinner buffet will be treated to one complimentary meal. Now isn't that exciting?

Experience the Thai way of life by dining at Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant. Fit for royalty, the restaurant offers five special a la carte dishes for the Holidays from Dec. 12 to 23.

Diners just can not stop craving for more, that is why Benkay Japanese Restaurant is extending the "Nabe Kaiseki" (Japanese Hot Pot Fair) until Dec. 31. Enjoy generous servings of noodles and vegetables fresh from the Hot Pot bowl.

Savor the best of Vietnamese cuisine this Christmas at Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant. Its healthy dishes bring wellness to all diners. This December, the restaurant offers diners the "Hot Pot Seafood and Meat Promotion." Every order of this food offering comes with your choice of a complimentary order of either a fried or fresh spring rolls, pomelo salad, beef soup, or *longan* pudding.

It is Fiesta time for the whole family as the hotel's Filipino "resto-brewery" adds a twist in its dishes served during the Yuletide season. Sample the unique and flavorful preparations of Osso Bucco Kaldereta, Braised Lamb Shoulder Adobo and Embotidong Pabo. And of course, Yuletide favorites like the Hamon ng Fiesta San Miguel, Fiesta Paella, Lechon de Leche and Crispy Pata ng Baboy will always be a menu staple at Fiesta San Miguel for your family's enjoyment.

Have a taste of the hotel's version of popular Filipino delicacies. Choose from among the wide array of Bibingka prepared to your liking and Puto Bumbong complemented by the warmth and refreshing sip of your favorite coffee, tea, *salabat* or native *tsokolate*. Enjoy all these at the comfort of the Lobby Lounge or for take-out from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. from now until Jan. 4.

For queries and reservations, call 867-3333.

23RD SEA GAMES AT THE PALM HOTELS

The athletes and representatives for the 23rd SEA Games are billeted at The Palm Hotels, one of the official Hotels for the said event. In preparation for the actual event, the Manila Police District started coordinating with the partner Hotels to ensure the safety and security of the delegates from various countries. Shown are (from right) P/Supt. Frumento Villareal, P/Sr. Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, Barbie Canlas (Palm Plaza Hotel Sales Manager), Ninnette Soliman (The Executive Plaza Hotel sales manager), P/C Supt. Pedro E. Bulaong (District Director, MPD), Ghie Gomez (corporate director of sales/ Palm Plaza Hotel resident manager), Anne Dizon (Las Palmas Hotel sales manager), Precy Resureccion (Palm Plaza Hotel guest services and community manager), P/Inspt. Oliver Navales, P/CI Ricardo Layug and P/Supt. Teodorico Perez. The Palm Hotels is composed of Las Palmas Hotel, Palm Plaza Hotel and The Executive Plaza Hotel.

eNEWS FUEGO HOTELS
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Weekend Buffets at
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Villancicos de Navidad
SANTA's CORNER
CARROZA NAVIDEÑA
Christmas Eve Dinner
FIESTA
Paskong Palaro
TAAL VISTA HOTEL GIFT CERTIFICATES
TAAL VISTA HOTEL

People, Events & Products

Christmas treats from Hyundai

AS A WAY OF THANKING ITS LOYAL customers, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc (Hari) formally launches not one but two Christmas treats that offer bigger surprises, twice the fun and twice the excitement.

Hyundai announces its "Genuine Parts and Accessories Christmas Raffle Promo" back-to-back with "Drive Your Way" Motorshow 2005.

"Genuine Parts and Accessories Christmas Raffle Promo" gives all Hyundai customers a chance to win P30,000 worth of Hyundai gift certificates. Joining and winning is simple. But first, you have to make sure that you're buying the Hyundai genuine parts and accessories. Customers are advised to check on the sticker bearing the "100% Genuine Peace of Mind" icon. Cut out this sticker and attach to the completely filled out raffle ticket, which customers can automatically get for a minimum P500 single or accumulated purchase/s worth of Hyundai genuine parts and/or accessories at authorized dealers nationwide. Put the raffle ticket and sticker cut-out in an envelope and drop in drop boxes located at the parts counter of participating dealers.

Monthly draw dates will be on Dec. 1 and Jan. 3. Grand draw is set on Jan. 15.

And while you're still hyped-up with the Hyundai Christmas promo, the excitement is yet to come as all roads lead to the Glorietta Activity Center, from Dec. 5 to 7, for an all-fun activity of entertainment, games, prizes, live bands, coffee and socials, for the Hyundai motorshow dubbed as "Drive Your Way". Feast your eyes on the newest Hyundai product lines and catch the best price offer! Get Hyundai exclusive items and join exciting programs for the whole family. Witness the awarding of Hyundai Dealer of the Year. All these in a 3-day Hyundai gathering of the best there is.

For other details of the Hyundai Parts and Accessories Christmas raffle promo and "Drive Your Way" motorshow, visit the Hari corporate office at 2307 Don Chino Roces Extension, Makati City or call 632-8300010 to 12.

Bits & Clips

Ateneo homecoming 2005 goes online

THE FULL DATABASE BUILDUP FOR ATENEO DE Manila alumni worldwide has gone online with the recent launch of its very own Internet website. Accessible via www.ateneohomecoming.com, the website kicks off preparations for this year's Ateneo Alumni Homecoming scheduled on Dec. 3. All Ateneo de Manila Alumni are encouraged to log into the website to register and update their information on the alumni database. Alumni can also keep tabs on activities and events of the University and various batches. The Ateneo Homecoming website was set up and is being administered by Ateneo High School Batch 1980, organizers of the 2005 Ateneo Alumni Homecoming. It will be turned over to the following batches for their use for the coming homecoming years. Dubbed "Labora Dure, Lude Dure" (latin for "Work Hard, Play Hard") this year's homecoming is presented by Smart and also features jubilarian batches from the Ateneo's Grade School, High School and College of 1955, 1965, 1980 and 1995.

Frisogrow storytelling session

FRISOGROW, A MILK FORMULA ESPECIALLY for children four years and above, has organized a three-month-long storytelling session at Powerbooks branches. Featuring Sam McBratney's "Guess How Much I love You?," the activity encourages mothers and their children to bond together during weekends. On Dec. 3, they will be at Powerbooks, Greenbelt. Sponsored by Frisogrow, the activity is also a way for mothers to show their love for their children by not only giving them the right amount of nutrition, but also feeding their mind and prepping good thoughts for their emotional development. A product of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Frisogrow has packaged in Frisogrow 4 a totally holistic care system which supports brain development and physical growth, strengthens body resistance and assists in proper digestion of a child four years and above. Frisogrow 4 contains smart, growth, defense and digestion factors to ensure a child gets the proper nutrition he needs.

Gratitude, according to 'champ' Erik Santos

By Marinel R.Cruz

TAKE FIVE

I'M TRULY GRATEFUL TO my supporters. And they never expect anything from me. In fact, one group of fans gifted me with a diamond cross necklace, another with a Cartier watch, some with electronic gadgets and even pieces of furniture for my new house."

That was singer Erik Santos speaking with INQUIRER Entertainment about his followers' overhelming devotion.

The 23-year-old singer said at least two fan groups, both based abroad, are very active—Erik Santos Fanatics and Erik Santos Friends Online.

"Members of one group hired an interior designer to work on my house," Erik revealed during a visit to the INQUIRER office in Makati City last week. "They also paid for the Roman blinds, the huge mirror and the split-type air-conditioning."

To show his deep appreciation for these and other demonstrations of loyalty, the singer will perform in a free concert tomorrow, 6 p.m., titled "Paskong Pasasalamat ni Erik Santos," at the Markina Riverbanks.

Erik, the first grand winner of the ABS-CBN talent search "Star in a Million," is celebrating his second year in show biz.

"Paskong Pasasalamat" will also feature Ai Ai delas Alas, K and the Boxers, and Kim Flores. AJ Dee and Bianca Gonzales will host pre-concert activities, which will begin at 4 p.m. Free tickets to the show are available at the Backroom Inc. office in Quezon City.

What are you thankful for?

I'm thankful for two fruitful years in the business. I offer this to show my fans and family.

What do you have now that you didn't have before?

I now own a house and lot in Novaliches, (Quezon City). Of the rooms in my house, I am most proud of the Lanai room. That's where the family hangs out. That's also where we welcome our guests. I had it landscaped, with huts and waterfalls.

We also have an entertainment room on the ground floor. This is where the TV set, radio and musical instruments are found.

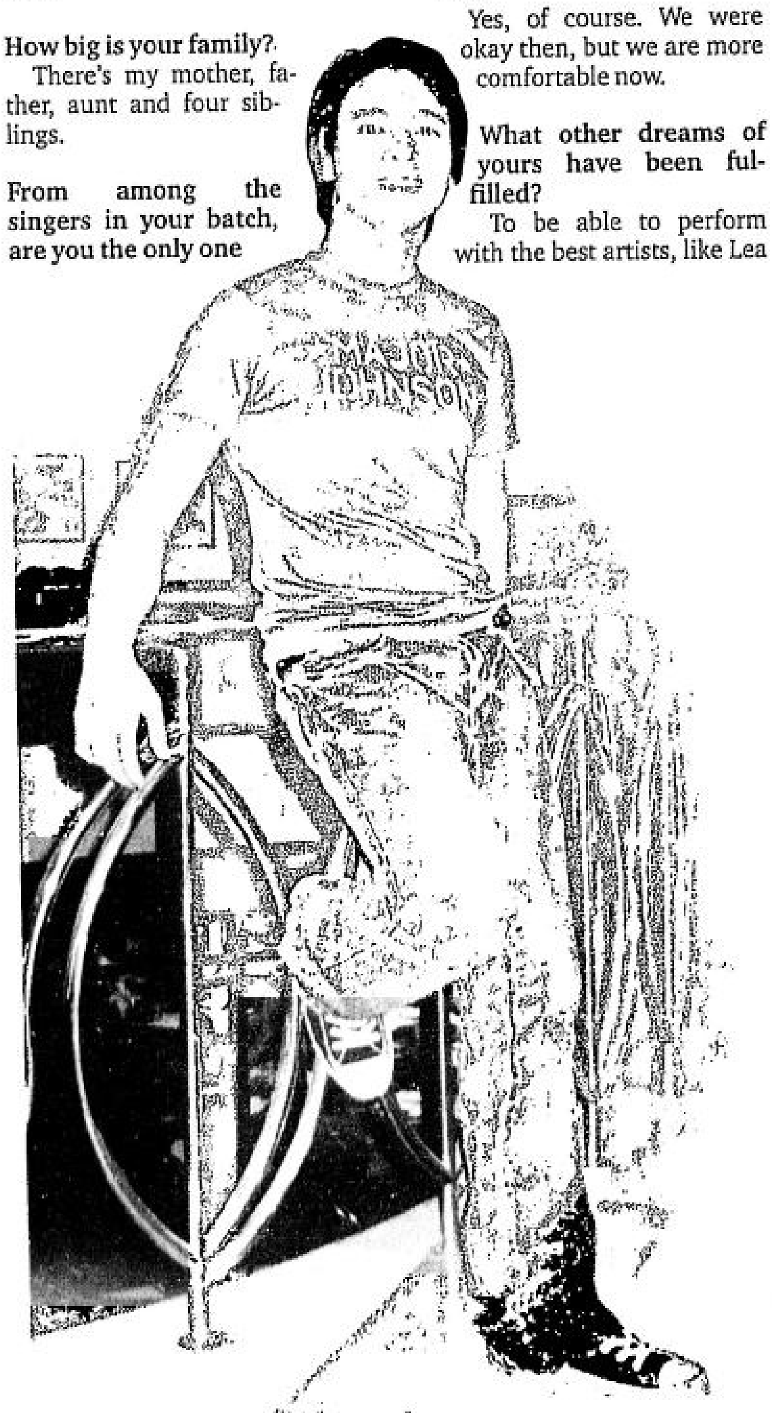
I consider my bedroom as my most private space. When I'm not working, I stay home. My bedroom is the biggest room in the house. It's a combination of white, black and blue. Near the door is a big black couch, next to it is the closet and then the bed.

How big is your family?

There's my mother, father, aunt and four siblings.

From among the singers in your batch, are you the only one who have bought a house?

I think so.



"STAR in a Million" as PDI visitor

Why are you so good at handling your money?

I don't know. I like to think that these are all God's blessings. My first year in show biz has been really hectic. *Tuluy-tuloy ang pasok ng mga* shows.

But the other champions did well in their first year, too. What's your edge over them?

My manager, Boy Abunda, handles my career well.

But I think it's also because the other champs have other priorities. Mine was... you know, we used to live in Malabon, where it was always flooded.

What did you do then when the floods came?

We rode a boat that took us to the jeepney or bus terminals. One time, the water went inside our house, thigh-deep. We had to move the furniture to the second floor and switch off the fuse box.

How old were you when you thought, 'I gotta get out of here!'?

That was three years ago, I guess. The original plan was that I would work abroad, in the US, as soon as I finished my studies in Dentistry—to save up for the new house. I didn't want my parents to grow old in our house in Malabon, although the house is okay. I just really wanted to make my family's life better.

When I felt that I would not prosper in Dentistry, I shifted to Nursing, prepared to be a caregiver if I had to. In my second year as a Nursing student, I auditioned for "Star in a Million."

When did you find out you could sing?

When I was 4 years old.

Is it true that you took a bus to go to the finals of "Star in a Million"?

Opo. I also rode a tricycle to get to the bus terminal. I wasn't ashamed. I didn't know how to drive then.

And now you drive a... ?

Space Gear *po*. We used to own a Wrangler. *Para po talaga sa baha 'yun*. We also have an owner-type jeep, which we still use for going to the market. *Uso po sa* Malabon *at* Navotas *yun*.

So are your parents happy now that you're in show biz?

Yes, of course. We were okay then, but we are more comfortable now.

What other dreams of yours have been fulfilled?

To be able to perform with the best artists, like Lea Salonga, Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez, Pops Fernandez and soon, the Megastar, Sharon Cuneta.

Who among the artists you idolize encourage you the most?

All of them, but it's Gary V who always reminds me to be humble, to offer everything to God and always give gratitude to people who helped me along the way.

What are you giving yourself as a gift?

I'm planning to put up a business with college friends. But I don't want to talk about it now, *baka maudlot*. That always happens with my product endorsement prospects. Whenever I talk about them publicly, the deals never push through.

Did anyone ever tell you that you look like comedian Roderick Paulate?

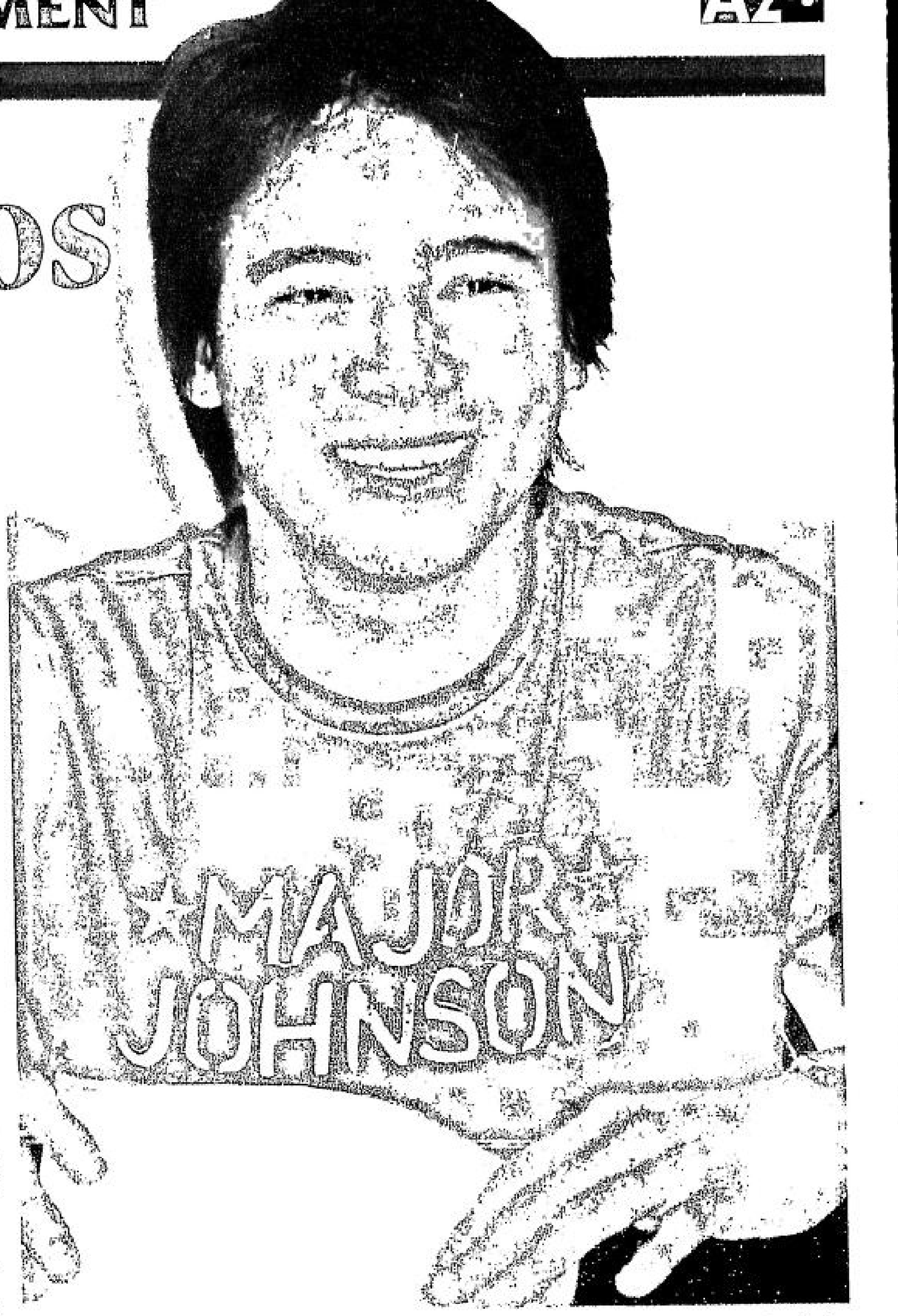
Yes. Kuya Dick heard about it, too, and told me, *'Uy pasensya ka na. Ganyan talaga sa* show biz.' I told him I didn't mind at all.

You look less like him now, though.

Really? It must be because I gained weight and I had my hairstyle and hair color changed. People suspect I had my nose fixed. I didn't. My parents said I got it from my grandpa.

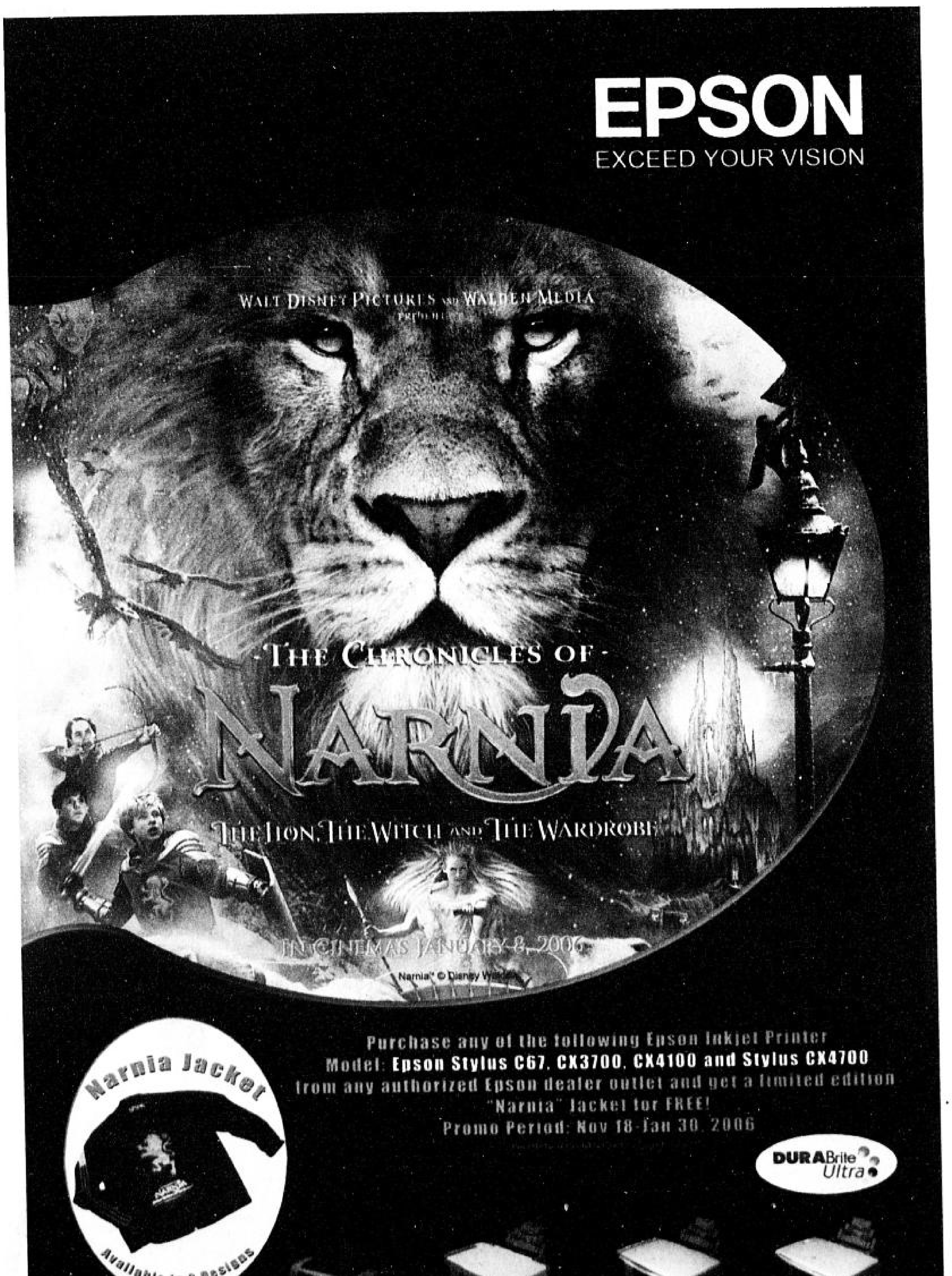
What's your reaction to the rumor that you're gay?

I used to feel offended. Now, I've learned to ignore it, and I tell my friends to ignore it, too.



"I was prepared to work as a caregiver, to make life a little more comfortable for my family."

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO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ENTERTAINMENT

Splendid performances in 'Prime'

MERYL Streep and Uma Thurman affirm their excellence as actors.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MY FAVORITE SCREEN ACTRESSES ARE **Meryl Streep** and **Uma Thurman.** Imagine my delight, therefore, when I learned that they were co-starring in "Prime." Of course, I had to see it as soon as I could!

As expected, the two acclaimed actresses do splendidly in the film, coming up with idiosyncratic and memorable portrayals that affirm their excellence and daring as screen thespians. After I viewed "Prime," I knew I was right when I placed the two stars at the top of my list of favorite movie actresses.

In **Ben Younger**'s romantic comedy-drama, Meryl plays a psychiatrist who is shocked to learn that one of her patients (Uma) is dating her very own son, David (**Bryan Greenberg**), who's *14 years her* junior.

For her part, Uma is nervous about the huge age difference, but finds her younger beau so nice—and good in bed—that she makes the big "mistake" of falling in love with him.

The psychiatrist condones Uma's "May-October" affair—*until* she discovers that Uma's lover is none other than her son! Aside from the age gap, the relationship can't be allowed to develop further, because David is supposed to marry into the Jewish faith, and Uma isn't even religious.—*Oy vey!*

When the relationship gets stickier and more complicated, Meryl decides to 'fess up to Uma, admit to being David's mom, and stop being her psychiatrist.

Of course, Uma feels terribly betrayed, but she eventually sees that Meryl meant her no harm, and was in fact protecting her—from herself!

At film's end, love doesn't necessarily triumph, but it does teach the "mismatched" lovers more than a thing or two. It also helps Meryl finally understand her son, enough to give him the space to live his life the way he wants.

Meryl's best thespic suit in the movie is the complex way that she details her character's conflicting instincts as mother *and* psychiatrist. As for Uma, she comes up with memorably affecting performance because she makes her character so open and vulnerable.

For even yummier icing on the cake, relatively new actor Bryan Greenberg does very well as David. He has his work cut out for him sharing scenes with the vastly more experienced Meryl and Uma, but he manages to hold his own. We should be seeing a lot more of him in movies to come.

'Snake Sisters'

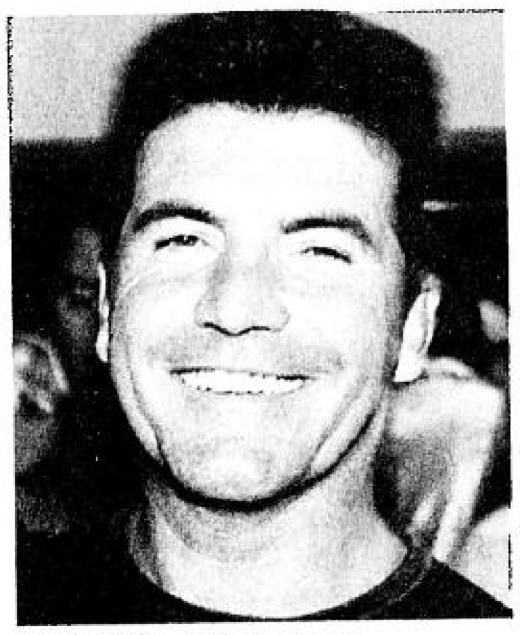
THIS MONTH, **Celso Ad. Castillo**'s "Snake Sisters" will be screened at Robinson's Movie World Galleria. The sexy cult "classic" is based on the biblical tale of Paradise—with a difference.

Castillo shares, "In 'Snake Sisters,' the main protagonists are the snakes themselves—in human form! Upon reaching maturity, the three sisters are advised by their father to leave their cage and explore the beauty of life. But, they should let no man touch their bodies, lest they become the snakes they really are."

"Snake Sisters" stars **Pepsi Paloma, Coca Nicolas** and **Sarsi Emmanuelle.**

Mall challenge

AXN Asia is set to launch The Amazing Mall Challenge at 2 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Gateway Mall, Araneta Center. Inspired by the reality series, "The Amazing Race," the Mall Challenge involves 30 teams of two who will be given clues and be made to perform tasks. The fastest team to reach all checkpoint stops wins the race. Visit www.axn-asia.com.



MR. NASTY gets big bonus, too.

5 more seasons of Simon Cowell

LOS ANGELES—BRITISH RECORD PRODUCER Simon Cowell, whose brutal honesty as a judge on "American Idol" has helped make the Fox talent show a ratings sensation, has struck a deal to keep zinging tone-deaf contestants for years to come.

The Fox network said on Tuesday it has signed Cowell to a deal that will keep him on the top-rated US television show for at least five more seasons, starting with a fifth edition of the series that debuts in January.

Cowell also will keep his rights to sign the winning singer and runner-up from each "American Idol" contest to a recording contract with his label, Sony BMG, a partnership between Sony Corp. and Bertelsmann AG.

Most watched

The deal coincides with the settlement of a copyright suit against Cowell by rival music mogul Simon Fuller, the creator of "American Idol" and its British forerunner, "Pop Idol." Fuller accused Cowell of stealing the "Idol" format when he (Cowell) launched his own hit talent show in the UK, "X-Factor."

Cowell, whose previous contract with Fox was set to expire at the end of upcoming "American Idol" season, had suggested publicly that his future with the Fox show hinged on the outcome of the litigation.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

"Idol" was the most watched show on US television last season, averaging more than 27 million viewers for its Tuesday night broadcasts and leading the ratings race among viewers aged 18 to 49, the group most prized by advertisers.

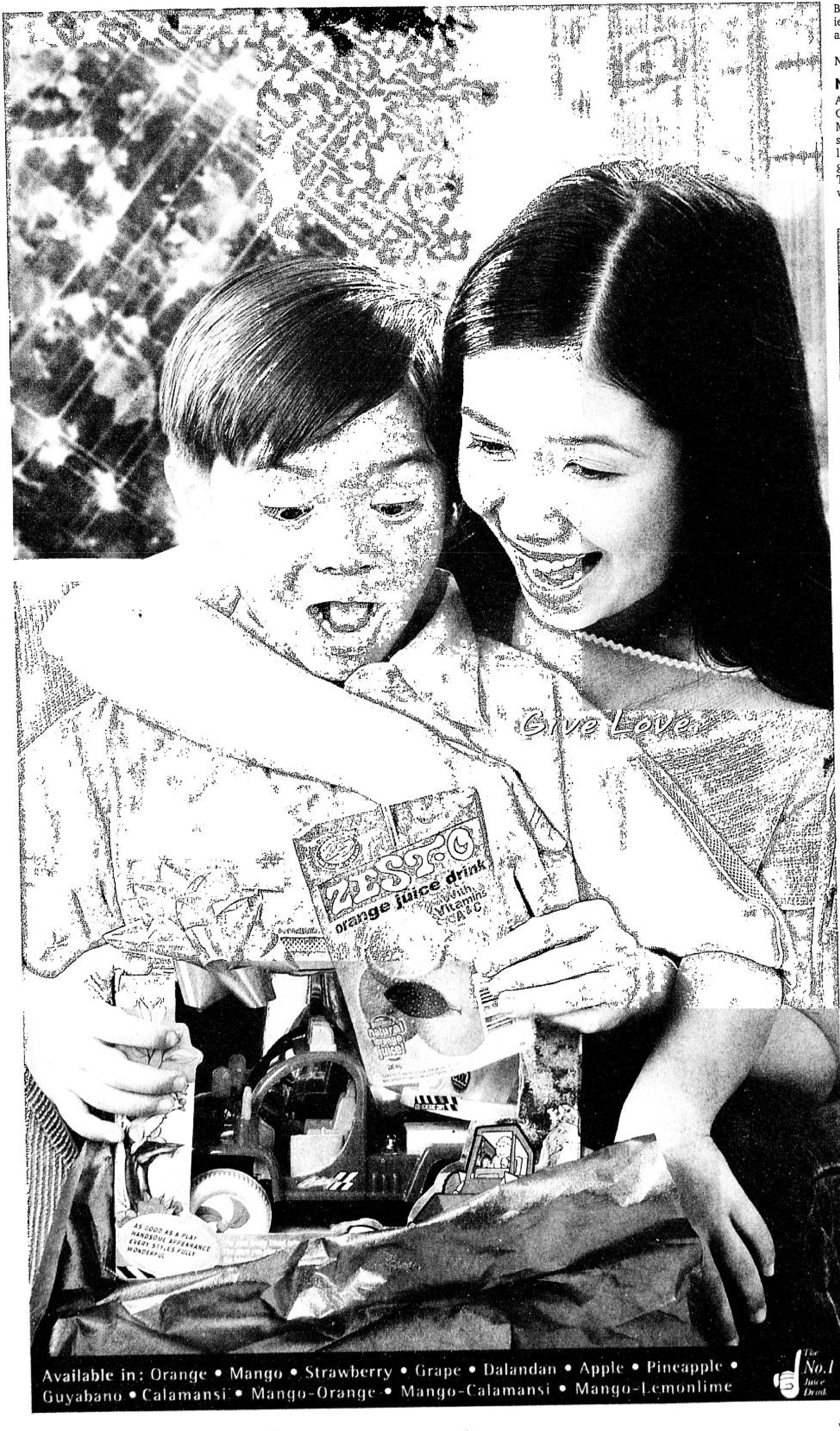
Biggest ad draw

The show has become Fox's biggest advertising cash bonanza, currently fetching between $500,000 and $700,000 for each 30-second commercial spot.

Cowell, whose acid-tongued comments are widely seen as key to the show's success, will also see a bump in his salary, which the New York Times recently pegged at about $8 million a year, one of the highest in television.

Fellow celebrity judges Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson, as well as host Ryan Seacrest, all have deals keeping them on the show through at least the upcoming season, Fox said.

Fox also agreed to pick up at least two original shows created jointly by 19 Entertainment and FremantleMedia in the next five years as part of their overall pact. *Reuters*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ENTERTAINMENT

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'Cavite' directors up for indie award; Woody Allen gets his groove back as he turns 70

FIL-AM filmmakers Ian Gamazon and Neill dela Llana used credit cards to finance their projects.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—CONGRATulations to **Ian Gamazon** and **Neill Dela Llana**, Filipino-American filmmakers of "Cavite," finalists for the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award.

The award, which "recognizes a talented filmmaker of singular vision who has not yet received appropriate recognition," will be given out in Santa Monica, California as part of the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards. If Ian and Neill win in the March event, they will receive an unrestricted grant of $25,000. Unitel has the distribution rights to "Cavite" in the Philippines and worldwide, except US and Canada.

Neill issued this exclusive reaction to us: "It's a great honor to be a part of a prestigious event and to be the sole representative of Filipino independent filmmaking. Ian and I are excited to just be nominated and get some recognition for our film, considering [that], one year ago, we had no idea how the public would respond to our project. The nomination will be the start of an exciting career making films and we hope to make the Filipino and Filipino-American community proud of what we can accomplish."

We wrote earlier this year about this intrepid pair who have been financing their projects with credit cards and who were at one point discussing "how pitiful our lives were for being failures in filmmaking."

But when "Cavite" was shown in the LA film fest, their road to success began. LA Times' **Kevin Crust** praised the movie as "fresh and compelling to the end." Carina Chocano, also of the LA Times, chimed in, welcoming "Cavite" as a "movie [that] plays like a thriller many times its size."

Another Fil-Am filmmaker, **David Maquiling**, made it as a finalist for the same award in 2002 for his film, "Too Much Sleep." Neill and Ian are competing with two other filmmakers for the plum.

One more great

When I meet the really great ones, I somehow expect their arrival to be announced by a blaring of trumpets.

But when I met **Barbra Streisand, Meryl Streep** and composer **John Williams**, there was no such fanfare. It was the same thing with film and comic genius **Woody Allen**. Without any fuss, he appeared recently in this room in New York's Waldorf Astoria, looking like a kindly old grandpa in an orange sweater, blue shirt, khaki pants and well-worn brown shoes. His hair is gray now but the voice is the same. The trademark black-framed glasses still adorn his sad sack face. But he is hard of hearing. When someone asked if he would like coffee, he said, "No, I just want to make sure I hear all the questions." So everyone in this press con was asked to speak loudly when asking questions.

We spoke to Woody a couple of weeks before he turned 70 yesterday, Dec. 1. The intellectual "schnook" appears to be on the rebound. He survived the ruckus stirred by his affair with, and eventual marriage to, his stepdaughter **Soon-Yi**, resulting in a nasty separation from his wife (the latter's adoptive mother), actress **Mia Farrow**. He went through a series of critical and commercial film duds. The turning point came last May when his "Match Point" was warmly received in Cannes. Set to have a wide release in the US come January, the movie is being hailed by critics. He is doing post-production work on a new film, "Scoop."

Both films have two things in common, which could be considered his new lucky charms—star **Scarlett Johansson** and a London location. He described Scarlett as a true movie star while the British capital seems to have won the staunch New Yorker over.

Surprisingly candid and accessible, Woody talked to us in that nasal voice about luck, which plays a big part in "Match Point" (excellent performances from Scarlett, Jonathan Rhys Myers, **Emily Mortimer** and **Matthew Goode**), growing old, and his now blissful family life with Soon-Yi and their two very young daughters.

You've had a few rough years recently but you seem to have been reborn. And you have a big birthday coming up. How do you feel?

Well, I have been very lucky—there is no question about it. I've had an extremely lucky life because, first of all, I was born with a certain amount of talent, which was great for me because I was a poor student in school. If I didn't have a talent to fall back on, I don't know what I would have done with my life. I would have had some kind of menial or boring job my whole life.

I am not fit to do anything particularly interesting and not overly educated. I certainly have no skills. My parents lived long, healthy lives. My father died just after he turned 100 and my mother was about 95 when she died. I've had good health my whole life. I was lucky in the film business. When I started, all the critics and writers chose to overlook the many mistakes I made and emphasized all the good things I did so I've had nothing but luck.

I feel I don't know I could walk out of the room here and drop

'CAVITE'/A3-2

LA Times describes the Pinoy movie as 'fresh and compelling to the end' and says it 'plays like a thriller ... many times its size'

JONATHAN RHYS Myers and Scarlett Johansson in "Match Point."

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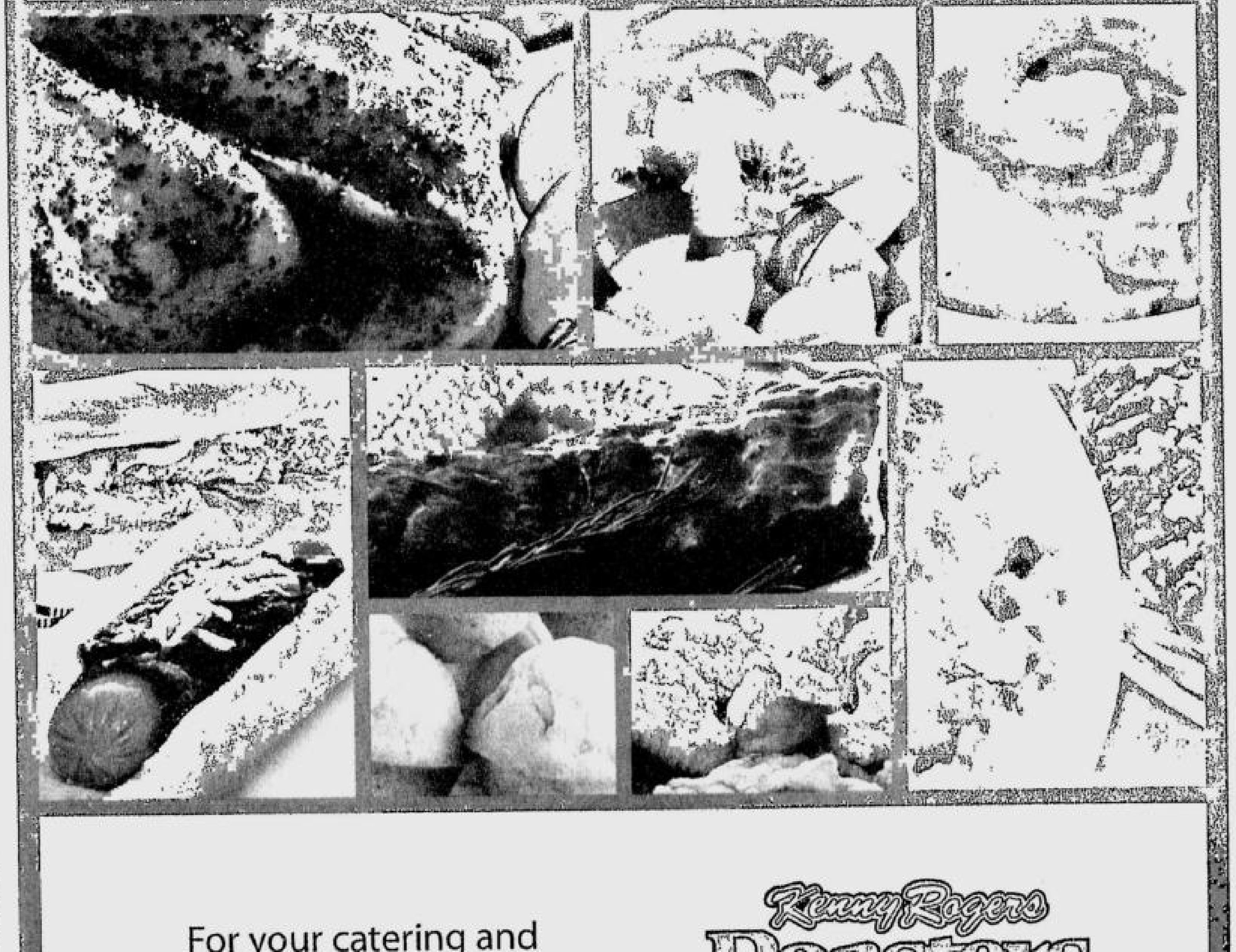

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'Cavite' directors up for indie award; Woody Allen gets his groove back as he turns 70

From page A3-1

dead on the curb but I feel physically okay. I work out and exercise every day. I take care of my health. I eat intelligently. I go to bed early. And I have the hopes of good genetic disposition so I should be able to make films as long as people are willing to back them. That's a different story—that could run out at any time.

When I read your profile in Vanity Fair this month, I was surprised to learn that you actually wanted Mia Farrow for "Mighty Aphrodite."

I wanted to have what for "Mighty Aphrodite"?

That you wanted to hire Mia Farrow for a part.

Oh, right, right.

Did you also have her in mind for your subsequent movies.

I cast whoever is great for the part. As a writer, my heart is in my script all the time and so I never think in terms of anything personal. If that's the person who's right for the part, then that's the person I think should play the part. It doesn't always work out that way but I have great commitment to the script and that's all I feel about casting.

You have said that you don't want producers to read your scripts, which is understandable. But we heard that actors you are casting have the script for only two hours so they have to read it real fast. Why is that? What are you afraid of?

I don't like producers or studios to read the script because they don't read it for their own edification. They read it because they are convinced that they want to give you input (laughter).

I feel and I am not saying this in any contentious way, just objectively, that in the same sense, they wouldn't ask me to negotiate their business deals and contracts and the nuances of all the goings-on in that corporate structure. I have no interest or faith in their competence (laughter) to judge the structure of a script or dialogue or characters. I just don't think they can do it. But while I hesitate to do it [to] them, they don't hesitate to do it [to] me.

So guys who were agents and don't know anything about play-writing, screen-writing or literature and have gone up the corporate ladder and have become producers, will look at someone's script and say, "I think this character is weak and I think you should have more action at the end" and they give their input. This gives them a certain aesthetic pride which I think they feel slightly shy about that it's lacking in their life. I think for some reason everybody wants to be "creative" where they feel something's missing from their life and they are not happy just to be businessmen and bankers. They want to feel that they are artists as well and they're not. I am not saying that in a critical way—just [being] objective.

As for the cast, if the person has a big part in the movie, like Scarlett or Jonathan, I give them the whole script to read. If an actor is just going to come in for a day, he doesn't need to read 120 pages when he appears on three pages of the script. The truth of the matter is that those actors and actresses are thankful. They don't want to read through a ton of material to find their part. No actor has ever, in all the years, turned me down on the basis of the fact that he did not get to read the whole script. They couldn't care less. They want to read their part and if their part is very big, then they get the whole script.

For two hours?

Well, yeah, then I'd like it back (laughter) because, you know, they can Xerox it and give it to some producer and next thing you know, I'm getting input (laughter).

What qualities do you see in Scarlett and what do you think of her as an actress? What made you cast her?

It's interesting because when I started raising money for this film, I was under the impression that we had to use all English people because of the tax structure and all that. It turned out we had to use a vast percentage of English crew and people but not 100 percent.

Originally, I cast **Kate Winslet** because I wanted an all-British cast and then shortly before we shot, she called and said she had just finished a picture. She was exhausted and [wanted to] spend time with her child. I could see that she wanted to back out and I understood that completely because she was tired. She had just worked in the United States and didn't have any time at all and had a new baby so I had to re-cast.

It turned out that I could cast an American because we had fulfilled our obligation to utilize a sufficient [number] of English people. So I went down the list and I saw Scarlett's name. I had seen her in "Lost in Translation" and "Ghost World." I thought she was beautiful, sexy, a wonderful actress, completely interesting on the screen. I felt like many people did that she was a new legitimate, authentic movie star who had burst on the screen and not in a superficial way, that she had real depth. I sent her the script on a Friday night. By Sunday, she was in.

The first scene I shot with her was early morning—she had just gotten off the plane coming from the United States. She had flown all night. I had no rehearsal with her at all and she came in and did a scene in the pub with **Jonathan Rhys Meyers**. It's a very hard scene and she came in and she just did it off the top of her head, gracefully and beautifully, and I knew that all my faith in her had been justified. I wanted someone who was very sexy so the audience could understand that Jonathan had an electrifying passion for her right away. I wanted a couple, Jonathan and Scarlett, to be a hot couple. I wanted them to be two people whose chemistry was really hot. I lucked out with both of them.

Emily Mortimer told us how her casting meeting with you was so short and how she wished the meeting had been longer. It seems like she came to your office, you exchanged "Hi, nice to meet you" and she left. How important is first impression to you and have you always been right?

I have not always been right but I've been right enough times so that I can do it that way. But sometimes I definitely make a mistake. I am not a great social person. I don't like to meet people. I don't know why but I just don't like to do it. It's a very uncomfortable thing when an actor or actress comes in—it's awkward. They want very much to be liked and to be hired for a job.

I'm meeting six of them and only one of them can have the job and they're all completely qualified to do it. They're all good enough but you're looking for a very specific thing because you wrote the script. So the whole moment is tense and awkward for them and certainly for me so I don't like to meet people.

I usually try and cast from films and videos.

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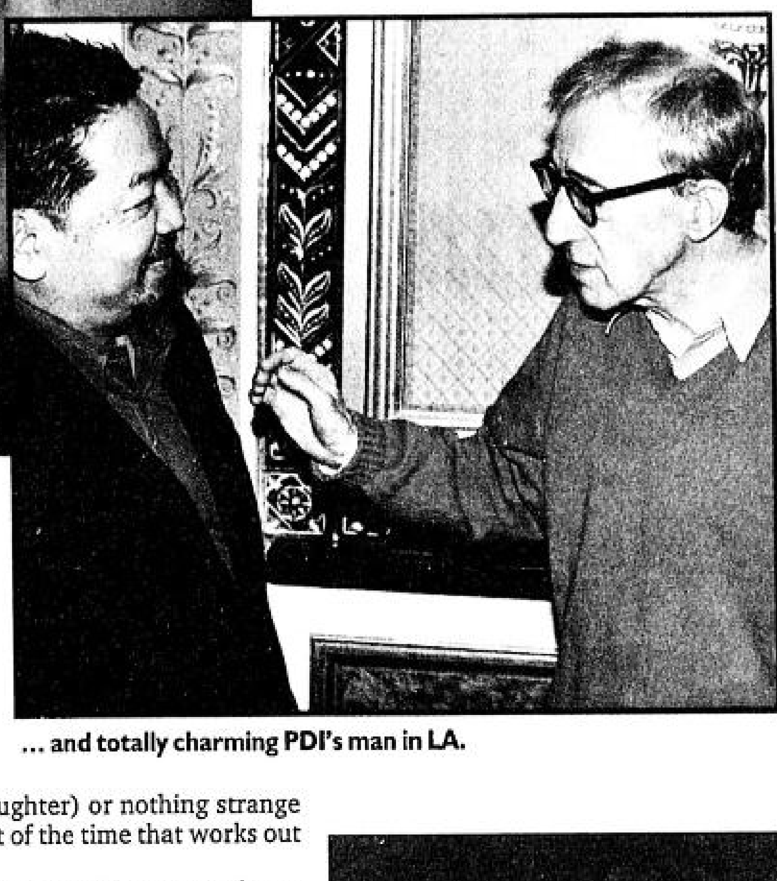
'I don't see any advantage in getting older. It's not like you suddenly get wise and accept the world for what it is, accept people for what they are, and suddenly realize what love is—none of that happens'



THE FAMOUS native New Yorker at work in London, on "Match Point," his latest movie ...

... and totally charming PDI's man in LA.

the person that I like, I do like k at them in person just to make re what I think they are. So I tell only going to say hello to them that the brevity of the meeting ng. They come in and I always n doing a film in a few months ted to say hello to you" and they d I say "Hello" (laughter) and aughter).

s enough?

because I have seen them in video. If it was just the hello, it ough. But I have seen their work d idea of what they do. In saying t the person still looks like he did d he hasn't gained 90 pounds since the movie (laughter) or nothing strange has happened. Most of the time that works out very well for me.

I've had very good casts with very good people. But once in a while, for some reason, I'll hit a clinker. I'll hire somebody whose video or audition was very good and then they're not good in the part. Then I have to work with them or God forbid, down the line—it's always a cumbersome process—replace them. You always hope that you don't have to do that.

How do you, as a scriptwriter, keep attuned to the way people speak? And since the cell phone figures prominently in the film, how do you think has this gadget affected the way we interact and communicate with each other?

It's interesting because I think I have a good ear for dialogue, not such a great ear for music. It happens to you by osmosis. It's nothing that you practice or learn or study or make notes for. You're picking up the rhythms and the way people speak from hearing them without making any conscious effort to absorb it.

In the movie, the cell phones play a significant role because they have come to play a very big, noticeable role. It's really amazing that people walk around the streets and communicate with one another all over the world through cell phones. It does tell you something about the culture in terms of the premium put on speed, the instant communication. It was not that long ago that, when I had to make a phone call, I had to have change and find the telephone. Now you see people walking along the street talking—they're not even holding the phones, they're just walking along the street talking and they're talking to somebody from New York, London or Paris.

How old are your daughters now?

Five-and-a-half and six-and-a-half.

Do they relate to you in the same way that they relate to their mother?

There is a slight kind of a gender empathy with their mother because she is their mother. I work so much and she does more with them but I am very close with them and play with them all the time. They're two sweet little kids. They go to a school on the Upper East Side and they are bright little kids. I have a lot of fun playing with them.

Before I came over here today, I was playing checkers for 45 minutes. I was winning relentlessly against my six-and-a-half year old (laughter) daughter. I take them to school, I make their breakfast, I play with them and read to them and do all those things that they enjoy and that give me pleasure.

But I will say that my wife is extremely good with them and is very devoted. She takes them to every show, every musical and every museum and every thing that I would not have the time to do. I would never get any work done if I did that. She's amazing that way. They are females and do empathize with her more. They like to see her dress up, put on her jewelry and all that. I'm in the other room practicing my clarinet but it's been a great experience for everybody. I really think I'm extremely good at fathering. It just comes naturally to me.

Can you tell us about the new film you are finishing?

I went back to London to make a film called "Scoop." It's not really about journalism itself. Scarlett plays a reporter on a college newspaper who is vacationing in London for the summer. I play a cheap, low-grade, small-time vaudeville magician. **Hugh Jackman** plays a gorgeous aristocrat who falls in love with Scarlett. Ian McShane plays a journalist. It's a combination of a love story and a mystery story. She's following a scoop, a murder story that she's trying to get the details of. It is meant to be funny. This is something you will decide next year. I intended it to be funny and Scarlett is very funny in it. I try and be as funny as I can in it and the movie is—hopefully, if it works—light, entertaining, amusing and romantic. If it doesn't work, I'll be hearing from you (laughter).

So as you said in Vanity Fair, there is nothing good about getting older?

Everyone thinks there's some kind of divine or mellow thing in getting older but there's no advantage to it at all. I have been very lucky so far because I still have a certain amount of energy and, as I say, my health has been good. But, you know, as you get older, as you can see, I'm a little hard of hearing. I have trouble picking up what you're saying.

Gradually, you disintegrate, your hearing goes, the eyesight goes, you look up in a couple of years and you're walking a little slower. I just don't see any advantage in getting older. It's not like you suddenly get wise and accept the world for what it is, accept people for what they are and suddenly realize what love is—none of that happens. Your bones ache more (laughter) is what happens. It has been slower for that to happen to me because of my genes but it's inevitable and it's around the corner. I wish it wasn't.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

ROUNDUP

Mission unpredictable

SHANGHAI, China—It was "Mission Unpredictable" for Tom Cruise when a reporter pulled out a cell phone and the actor insisted on talking to the person on the other end of the line.

"Put her on the phone. I want to talk to her," Cruise told the journalist, who sheepishly dialed up someone Cruise assumed to be the man's girlfriend.

"Hello. *Xiexie. Ni hao.*" Cruise said to the person on the other end of the line, handling the Chinese words for "Thank you" and "Hello" with ease. "Are you going to get engaged?" Cruise asked. "Soon? Maybe?"

"Oh, you're married?" asked the translator, who stepped in to help the conversation along.

"Tell her I wish her happiness," Cruise said before handing the phone back to the reporter.

Asked about his own plans for wedding fiancee Katie Holmes, Cruise said, "We haven't set a date. It will happen this year." The actor is reportedly planning a wedding for summer 2006.

Speaking to journalists atop the historic Bund 18 building near the Huangpu River, Cruise said he finished shooting the China sequences for "Mission Impossible 3" a couple days early.

Cruise is both starring in and co-producing the third installment in the "Mission Impossible" series, due to be released in May 2006. *AP*

TOM CRUISE

Brief Stones break

DETROIT—The Rolling Stones will take a brief break from touring to perform at the Super Bowl halftime show.

The rock 'n' roll greats will go on stage during the American football championship game Feb. 5 at Ford Field, the NFL said Tuesday. It is one of the most viewed events on American television.

"We are thrilled to perform for millions of fans at one of the most exciting and highly anticipated sporting events of the year," the band, which earlier in the day announced its European tour dates, said in a statement.

The Rolling Stones are currently touring North America to promote their latest album, "A Bigger Bang."

The NFL has a history of getting top acts for its halftime show.

Last season, the primary entertainer was former Beatle Paul McCartney. *AP*

Burton directs Carrey

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood superstar Jim Carrey will play the founder of the "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" chronicle of oddities in a new movie to be directed by Tim Burton, the entertainment press said Tuesday.

Carrey, 43, the star of last year's "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "The Truman Show" (1998) and "The Mask" (1994) will play Robert Ripley in the Paramount Pictures movie scheduled for release in 2007, Daily Variety said.

The teaming of Carrey and "Edward Scisssorhands" director Burton comes after the success of Burton's 2005 colorful remake of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Ripley was an American explorer, anthropologist and newspaper cartoonist who created the "Ripley's Believe It or Not" series of bizarre but true facts from across the planet.

He died in China in 1949 at the age of 58.

The film begins production in London next October. *AFP*

'Apprentice' in California

LOS ANGELES—Real estate tycoon Donald Trump will be back on NBC next year for a sixth edition of his corporate-themed reality show "The Apprentice," but he's moving the boardroom competition from Manhattan to Hollywood.

The NBC network said on Tuesday it has renewed the show—featuring 16 wannabe executives vying for a high-ranking job in Trump's business empire—for a sixth cycle to be filmed for the first time in and around Los Angeles.

Until now, "The Apprentice" has been set exclusively in New York City and the surrounding areas.

"We think that viewers will agree that a California back-drop, with Donald's West Coast business interests and relationships, will provide an exciting new flavor," NBC Entertainment President Kevin Reilly said in a statement. *Reuters*

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Seems the TV titans' war is over

NEW YORK—OPRAH, DAVE. DAVE, Oprah.

The cold war between television titans Oprah Winfrey and David Letterman has thawed to the point where Winfrey has accepted Letterman's invitation to appear on the "Late Show" on Dec. 1 (today in Manila).

Letterman made the announcement during a taping of his show last week. Winfrey's appearance will coincide with opening night of the Broadway musical "The Color Purple," which she is producing.

Street of dreams

"What a big night that is going to be—not only for us, not only for Oprah, but for Broadway," Letterman said. "You have the big 'Color Purple' Broadway opening, and then right across the street here in this theater, you have Oprah appearing here. I mean, that's what Broadway is all about—it's a street of dreams."

It's Winfrey's first visit to "Late Show," although she was twice Letterman's guest on his NBC show before the late-night comic moved to CBS in 1993.

The origin of their "feud" was murky, although Letterman has frequently joked about her through the years. Letterman's failed 1995 stint as Academy Awards host is best remembered for his awkward "Oprah, Uma. Uma, Oprah" introduction.

Winfrey told Time magazine in 2003 that she wouldn't go on Letterman's show because she's been "completely uncomfortable" as the target of his jokes.

LETTERMAN: "Oprah would make me cry."

"This just gives you an idea of what a big, big star this really is," Letterman said on Monday. "She's huge. Put bygones behind us, the water under the bridge, over the dam, wherever water goes—standing in your basement—she's going to be here on this show and it's going to be fantastic."

Back in 2003, Letterman joked about wanting Winfrey on his show to hold "the Super Bowl of love." Winfrey—who had sent an olive branch gift of books for Letterman's newborn son—called his bluff and invited him on her show. He declined.

"Here's what would happen: I would go on the 'Oprah' show, and I would break down and sob like a little girl... I don't want to have that happen," he said at the time. "I'd feel ridiculous. I'd never be able to live that down, that Oprah would make me sob."

Former Winfrey protege Dr. Phil has been a frequent Letterman guest, offering his own form of "tough love" in a needling relationship.

Boost for David

Oprah's appearance is a big boost for Letterman, who has been struggling in the ratings this season and falling further behind his nemesis, NBC's Jay Leno.

The timing isn't quite ideal, however: Winfrey will visit the day after the November ratings sweeps period ends.

David Bauder, AP

'VOTE FOR ME!'
Miss Philippines World is banking on the country's reputation as "text capital of the world" to make it to the last round of the Miss World 2005 competition. The finals will be broadcast live from Sanya, China, on Dec. 10. Watch the last of Star World's "Vote For Me" pre-pageant series on Monday and Thursday, 9 p.m., and make your choice clear.

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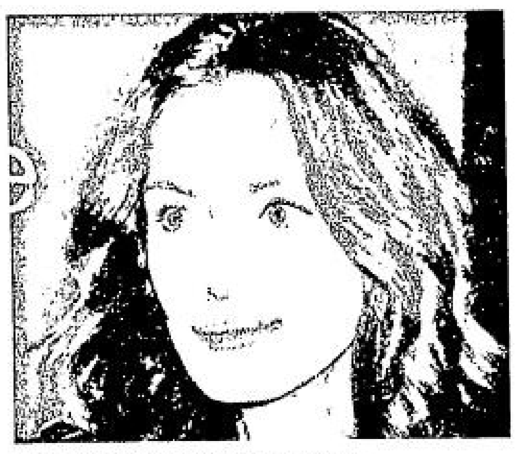
JULIA ROBERTS, $20M per film

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Julia Roberts still H'wood's highest paid

LOS ANGELES—SHE TRADED HOLLYWOOD for motherhood and had no movie this year, but Julia Roberts still ranks as Hollywood's highest-paid actress at $20 million a film, according to an annual power list.

The entertainment paper Hollywood Reporter on Wednesday published its annual list of the top-earning actresses.

Runners-up

Nicole Kidman at No. 2 commands an estimated $16 million to $17 million per movie, the Reporter said.

No. 3 and No. 4 spots were held by Reese Witherspoon, currently starring in Oscar hopeful "Walk the Line," and Drew Barrymore. Both take in $15 million a movie.

Roberts, with her broad smile and infectious all-American style, earned an Oscar for playing feisty consumer advocate Erin Brockovich in the 2000 movie of the same name.

The ranks of $20 million-plus movie actors used to be reserved for hugely popular actors like Tom Cruise.

Roberts, 38, put her career on hold in 2004 and 2005. She gave birth in November of last year to twins, Phinnaeus and Hazel, and is married to cameraman Danny Moder.

Aniston in

Three actresses, Renee Zellweger, Angelina Jolie and Cameron Diaz, all had salaries estimated between $10 million and $15 million per film, the No. 5, 6 and 7 positions on the list.

Jodie Foster, who starred in the recent thriller "Flight Plan," returned to the list for the first time since 2002 at No. 8 with an asking price from $10 million to $12 million.

Charlize Theron made her debut in the No. 9 spot at a flat $10 million, and the No. 10 position belonged to Jennifer Aniston, who was said to make $9 million a movie.

The list of top-earning actresses is part of the Reporter's annual Women in Entertainment Power 100 issue, which hits stands Dec. 6. *Reuters*

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ABS-CBN wins injunction against Dream Satellite

By Clarissa Batino

THE COURT OF APPEALS has barred Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco's Philippine Multi-Media System Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV, from airing the free channels of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

The preliminary injunction that the court issued in favor of ABS-CBN applies while the network's case against Dream Satellite is being heard. The appellate court said its decision had not reversed the findings of the Intellectual Property Office early this year in favor of Dream Satellite.

In its decision, the CA said it was convinced that ABS-CBN had a right to seek prevention of the broadcasts and that Dream Satellite's nationwide transmission of the network's channels "has caused damage and injury to petitioner." Thus, the injunction was issued.

ABS-CBN claimed that Dream Satellite's operations constituted infringement and swelled the losses of the network's regional stations as viewers dropped.

The direct-to-home TV operator with more than 100,000 subscribers is being acquired by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. so it could launch its direct-to-home operations with American firm Echostar.

IPO, the anti-infringement agency, gave Dream Satellite in January the clearance to proceed with carrying the signal of ABS-CBN in its programming.

It said the Cojuangco-owned satellite TV operator was just complying with the policy of the

ABS-CBN/ A4-4

TONYBOY Cojuangco's cable company "caused injury" to giant network.

ROGER MARGALLO

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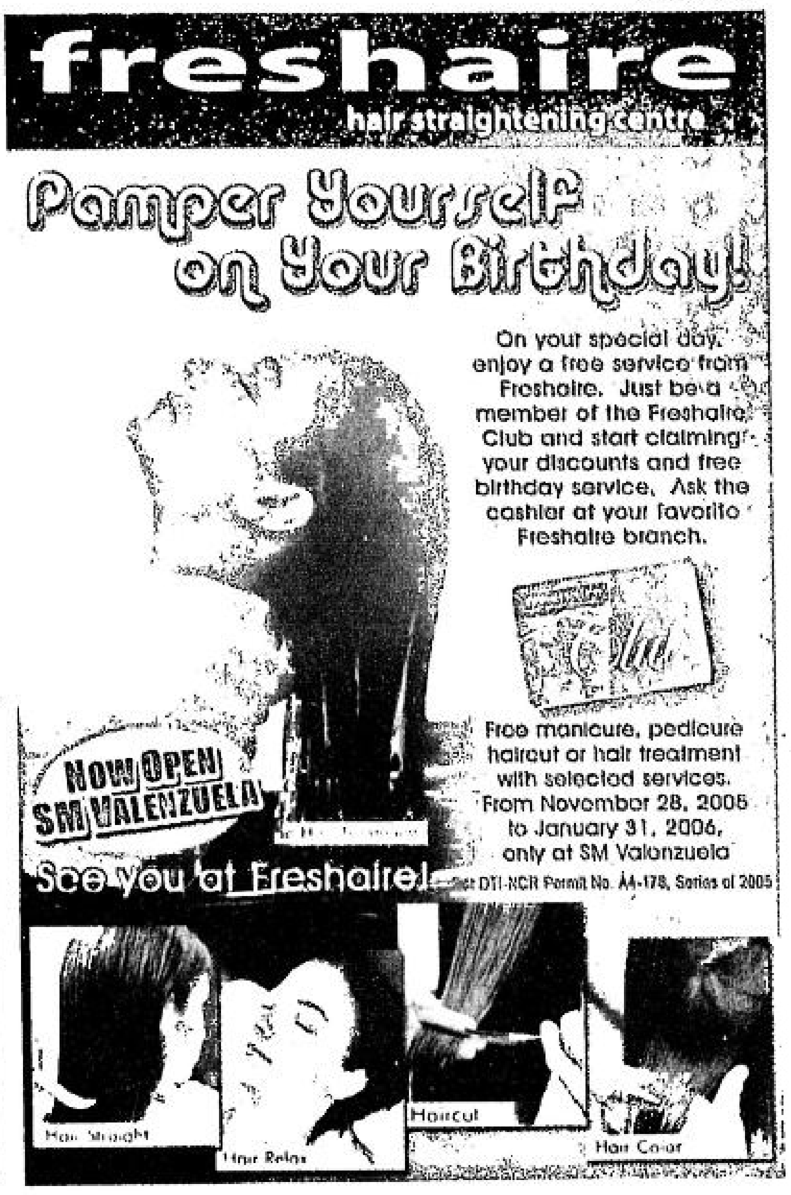

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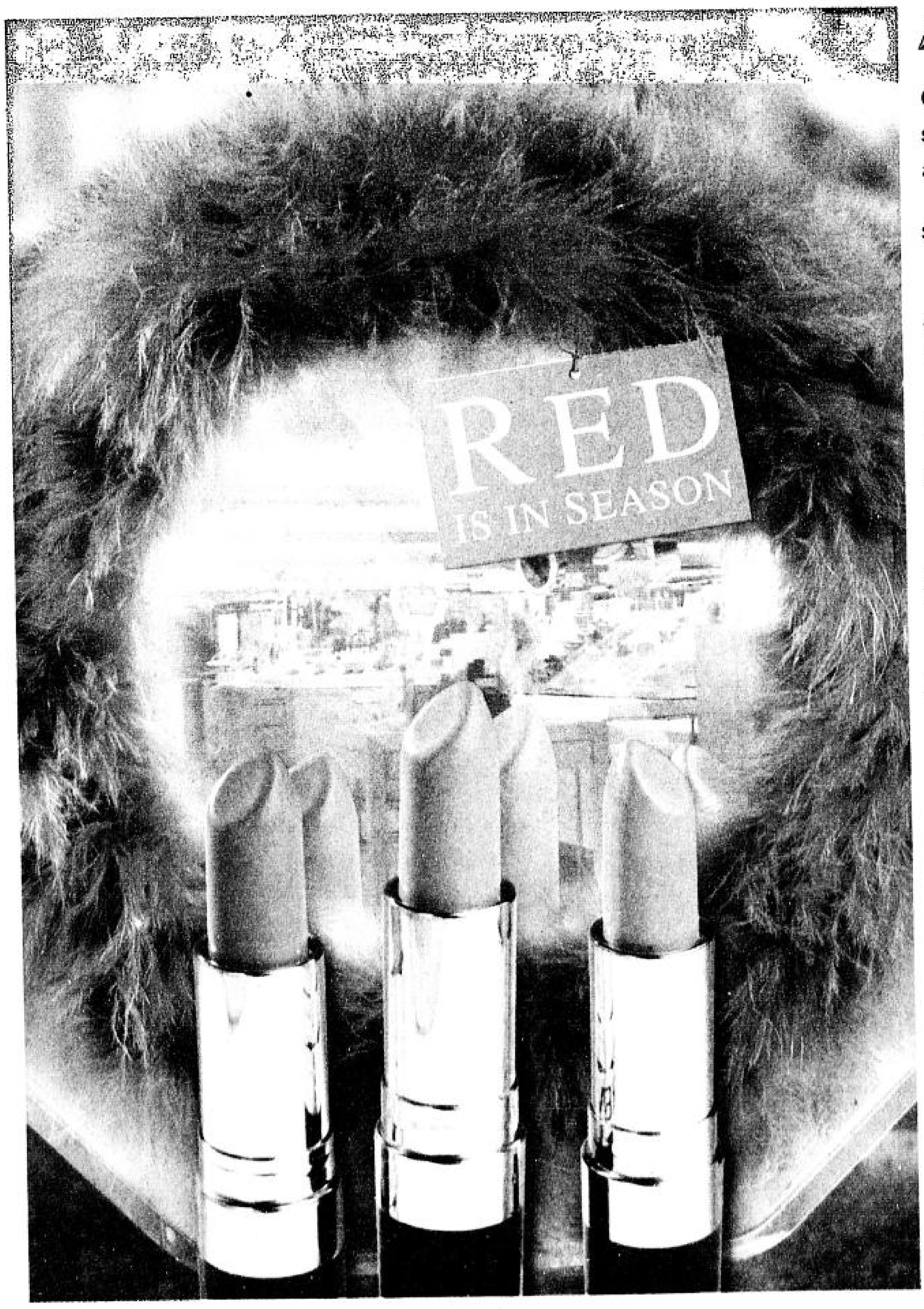

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Did Boy Abunda have a hand in this?

By Nini Valera

THE TUSSLE FOR THE ENDORSEment services of Claudine Barretto between "beauty doctors" Manny Calayan and Viki Belo has taken a bizarre twist after speculation floated that talk show host Boy Abunda brokered a deal between Belo and Claudine.

Claudine announced on "The Buzz" on Sunday that she was set to endorse Belo. Calayan claims the actress has a non-expiratory agreement with his Cosmetiderm Aesthetic Laser SurgiCentre as a "celebrity model."

CLAUDINE BARRETTO, "celebrity model"

In an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday, Calayan speculated that Boy Abunda, a talent manager and one of the hosts of "The Buzz," might be behind Claudine's decision to switch doctors.

"I'm just guessing here," Calayan, speaking in Filipino, admitted.

Boy Abunda denied he had a hand in Claudine's move, pointing out that he had no personal relationship with the actress.

"I am managing Gretchen (Barretto, Claudine's older sister), not Claudine," Abunda said. "I cannot influence Claudine about anything."

INQUIRER Entertainment tried but failed to get Claudine's side.

Calayan furnished INQUIRER with a copy of the actress' exchange-deal agreement with his clinic.

The agreement enumerates treatments and products that Claudine would get for free in exchange for her endorsement.

Claudine signed the agreement about two years ago, Calayan said. "Since then, she and her fiancé Raymart Santiago have been getting treatments and medicines from Cosmetiderm."

The cosmetic surgeon insisted that it was all right for Claudine to endorse other skin products for as long as she informed him first.

As for the endorsement of Belo's clinic, he said: "Claudine could have told me before she went on TV. A single text message would have been sufficient."

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1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00 GP
2 CHICKEN LITTLE 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GP
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00 GP
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13

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3 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13
4 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP
PREMIERE
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3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 GOLD (DTS) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
6 GOLD (SDDS) CHICKEN LITTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
8 PRIME
9 THE MYTH
10 HARI NG SABLAY

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1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
3 (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

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(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 (DTS) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(BIÑAN) tel. (049) 4111146
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY) FOUR BROTHERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 (DOLBY) BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 (DTS) HARI NG SABLAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH
5 MAHAROT

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE CROW-4
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 MAHAROT

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DTS EX) CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 THE MYTH
3 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CHICKEN LITTLE
5 THE MYTH

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 MAHAROT
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SPEED RUN-2
2 MAHAROT
3 UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 MAHAROT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MAHAROT
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE

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nova villa joel torre bianca king dion ignacio pekto

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rica peralejo
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isang tama, sampung mali!
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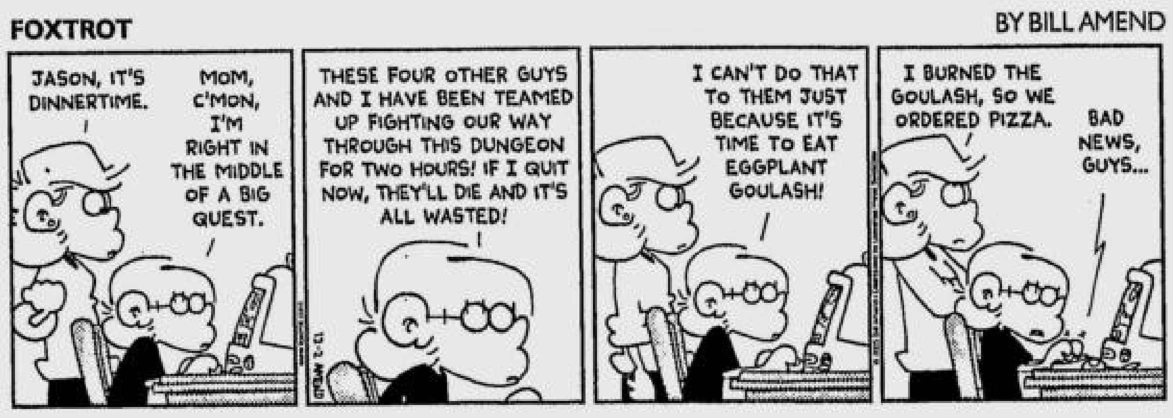
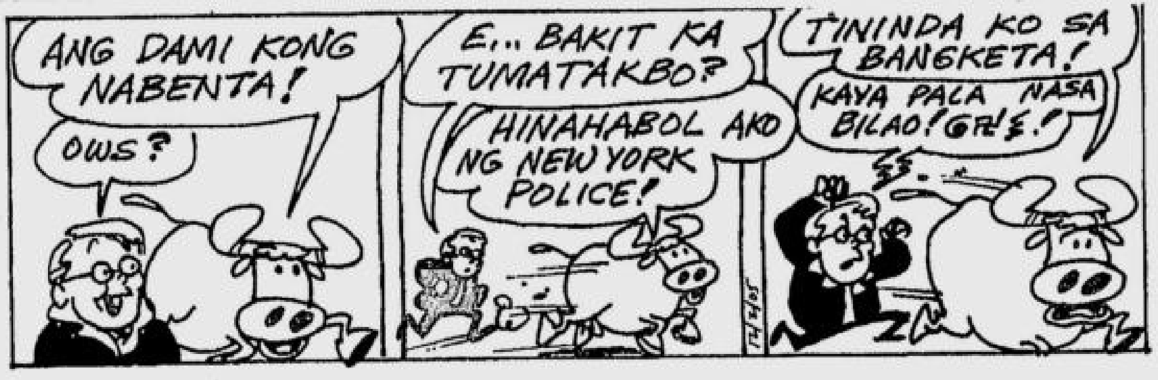
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, IT'S DINNERTIME.
MOM, C'MON, I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A BIG QUEST.
THESE FOUR OTHER GUYS AND I HAVE BEEN TEAMED UP FIGHTING OUR WAY THROUGH THIS DUNGEON FOR TWO HOURS! IF I QUIT NOW, THEY'LL DIE AND IT'S ALL WASTED!
I CAN'T DO THAT TO THEM JUST BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO EAT EGGPLANT GOULASH!
I BURNED THE GOULASH, SO WE ORDERED PIZZA.
BAD NEWS, GUYS...

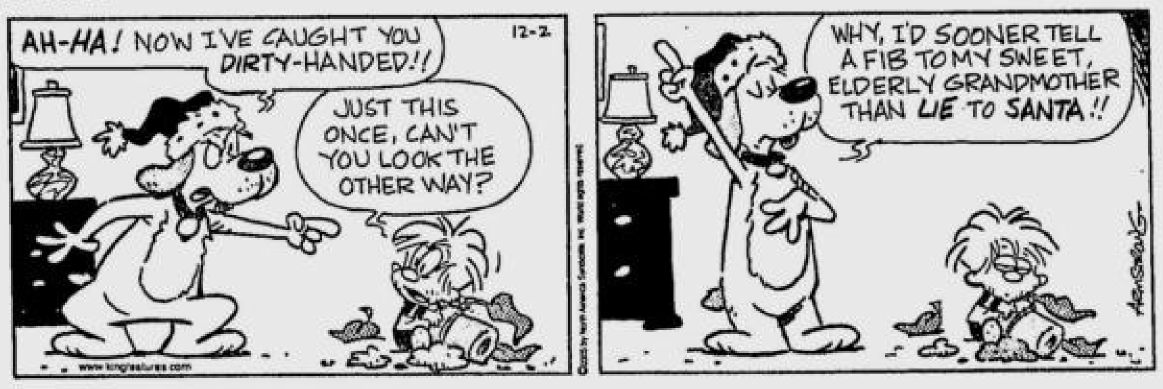
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMI KONG NABENTA!
OWS?
E... BAKIT KA TUMATAKBO?
HINAHABOL AKO NG NEW YORK POLICE!
TININDA KO SA BANGKETA!
KAYA PALA NASA BILAO! GR!£!

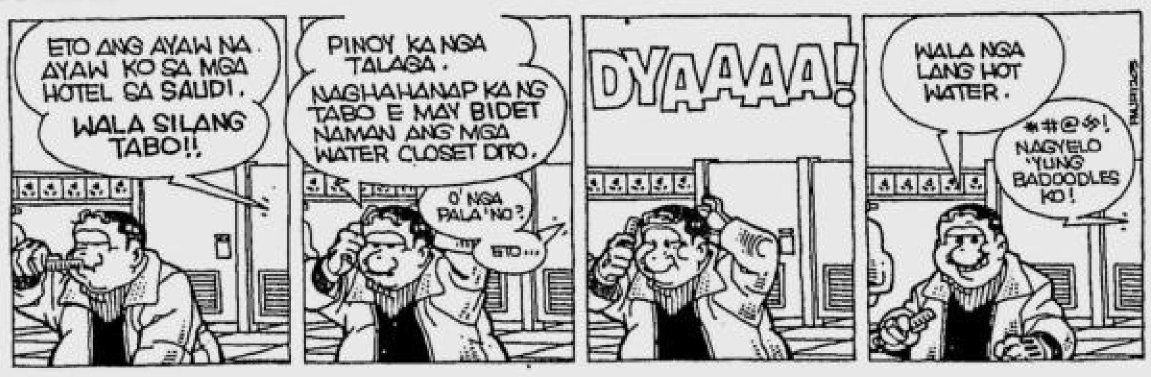
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


AH-HA! NOW I'VE CAUGHT YOU DIRTY-HANDED!!
12-2
JUST THIS ONCE, CAN'T YOU LOOK THE OTHER WAY?
WHY, I'D SOONER TELL A FIB TO MY SWEET, ELDERLY GRANDMOTHER THAN LIE TO SANTA!!
www.kingfeatures.com

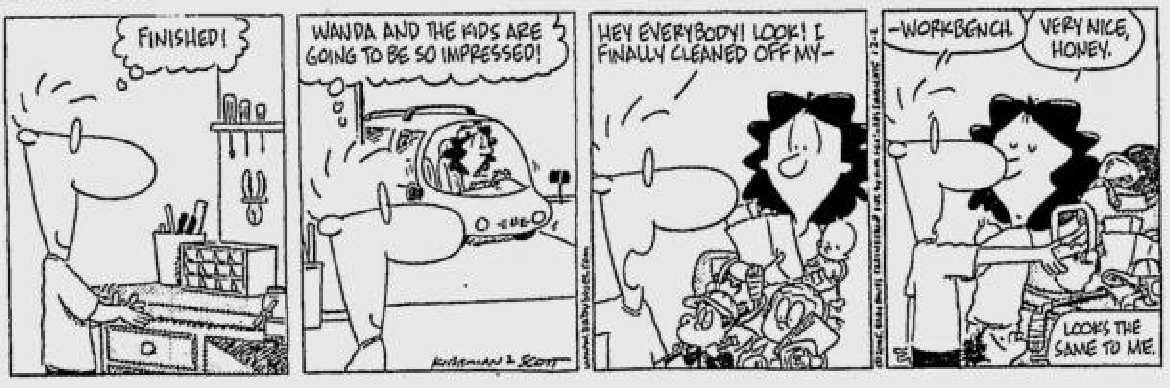
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ETO ANG AYAW NA AYAW KO SA MGA HOTEL SA SAUDI.
WALA SILANG TABO!!
PINOY KA NGA TALAGA.
NAGHAHANAP KA NG TABO E MAY BIDET NAMAN ANG MGA WATER CLOSET DITO.
O' NGA PALA 'NO?
ETO...
DYAAAA!
WALA NGA LANG HOT WATER.
*#@$!
NAGYELO 'YUNG BADOODLES KO!

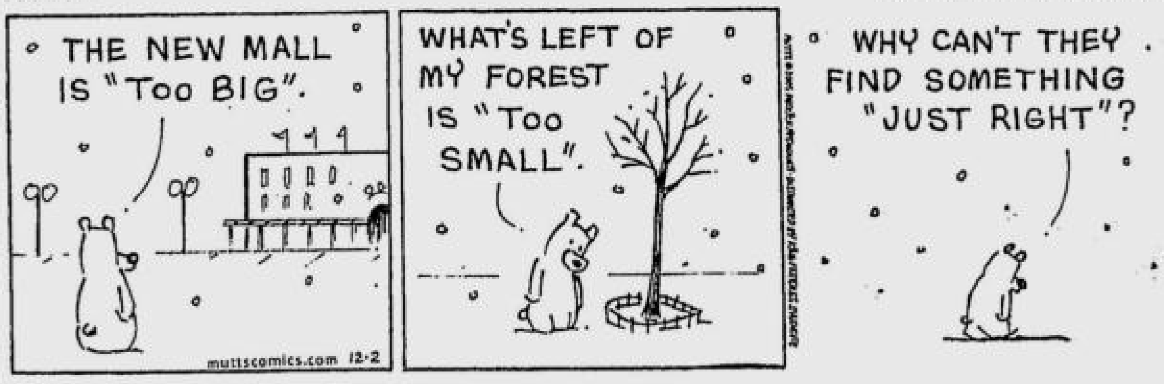
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FINISHED!
WANDA AND THE KIDS ARE GOING TO BE SO IMPRESSED!
HEY EVERYBODY! LOOK! I FINALLY CLEANED OFF MY-
-WORKBENCH.
VERY NICE, HONEY.
LOOKS THE SAME TO ME.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

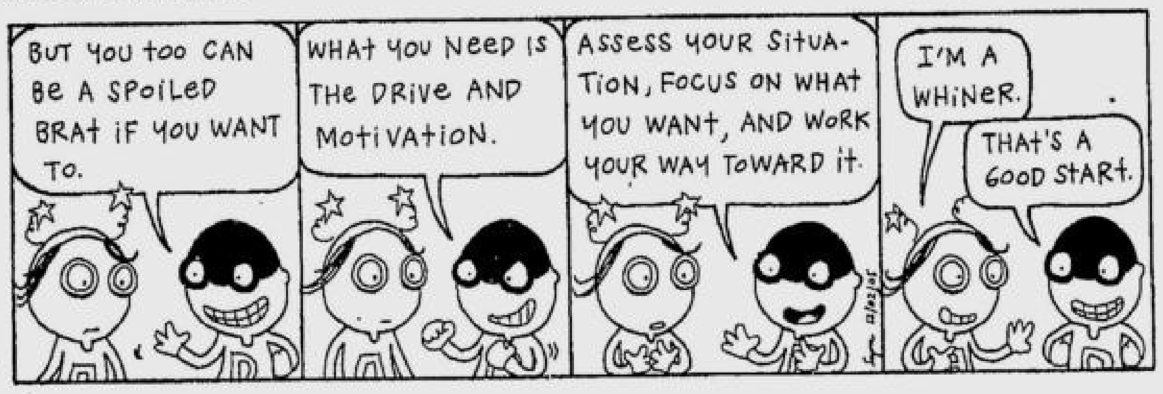
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE NEW MALL IS "Too BIG".
muttscomics.com 12-2
WHAT'S LEFT OF MY FOREST IS "Too SMALL".
WHY CAN'T THEY FIND SOMETHING "JUST RIGHT"?

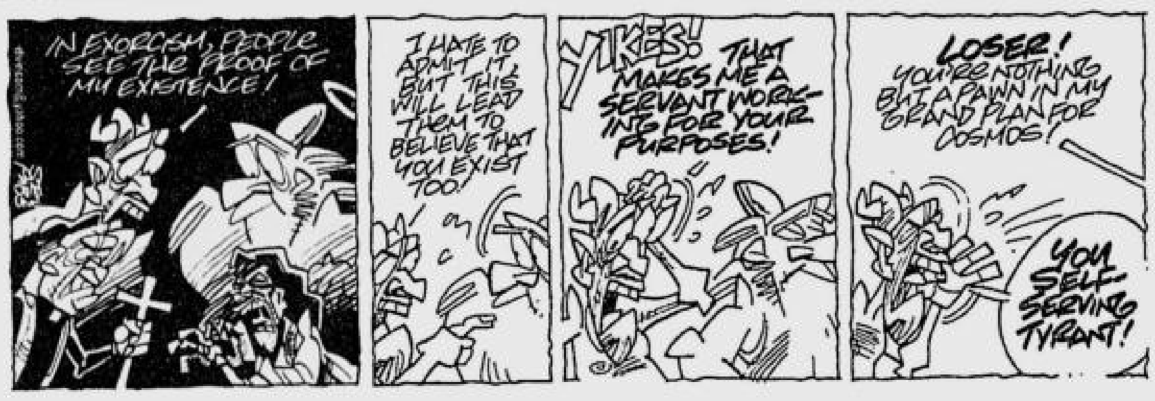
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


BUT YOU too CAN BE A SPOILED BRAT IF YOU WANT TO.
WHAT YOU NEED IS THE DRIVE AND MOTIVATION.
ASSESS YOUR SITUATION, FOCUS ON WHAT YOU WANT, AND WORK YOUR WAY TOWARD IT.
I'M A WHINER.
THAT'S A GOOD START.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IN EXORCISM, PEOPLE SEE THE PROOF OF MY EXISTENCE!
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT THIS WILL LEAD THEM TO BELIEVE THAT YOU EXIST TOO!
YIKES! THAT MAKES ME A SERVANT WORKING FOR YOUR PURPOSES!
LOSER! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PAWN IN MY GRAND PLAN FOR COSMOS!
YOU SELF-SERVING TYRANT!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're restless and courageous. You need variety in your life. You seek out adventure. You're humanitarian by nature, and a practical strategist. (You're a problem-solver.) You often pioneer new causes and new ways of doing things. Your inner self-discipline will bring you success in life. Work to build and construct something this year for rewards in 2007.

Birthdate of: Gianni Versace, designer; Britney Spears, singer; Nelly Furtado, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to discuss long-range plans about education, going back to school or traveling. Similarly, it's a good day to explore publishing and the media. (Avoid firm decisions until tomorrow.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Do something today to secure your future in a practical way, especially your old-age years. You are a sign that believes in well-planned endings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Now is the time to sit down with partners and close friends and hash out details about agreements or disagreements. However, wait until tomorrow to make final agreements.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're prepared to work long, hard hours at work today. You want results. You're more concerned with tomorrow than you are with today right now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Romantic relationships might finally shift to a committed level. It's a good day for discussions about taking care of children.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day to make repairs at home and do anything that is practical, functional and structural. Whatever changes you make now will last for a long time in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's easy to study or do mental work today. You have strong powers of concentration. You'll go that extra bit to make sure things are right. Work hard, but do not sign contracts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is not a good day to shop. Ironically, it's a good day to research what you want to shop for. Make your actual purchases tomorrow. You're very serious about money today.

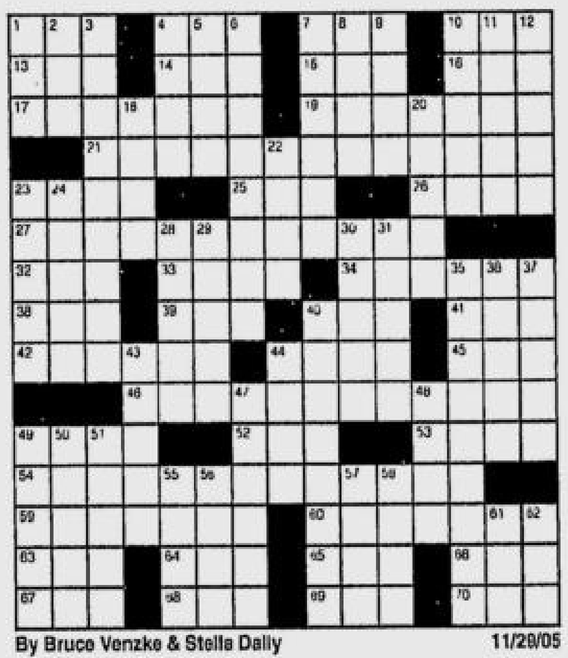
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're thinking about your long-term future. You're wondering how to best invest your time and money so that you will have few regrets as you get older.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to work behind the scenes or to work by yourself. Avoid important decisions, especially with the government and large institutions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): An older, wiser friend can help you today. Just listen to what is offered. Refrain from making an important decision today. Wait until tomorrow to do that.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Bosses, VIPs, parents and teachers want to have serious discussions today about future events. That's OK. Just don't agree to any promises or commitments. (Not today.) Wait until tomorrow to do that.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
11/29/05

ACROSS
1 Seed coverings
6 Grind, as teeth
11 Good buddy
14 Okay, speak!
15 Juliet's beau
16 Rene's friend
17 Successful divorcee?
19 Tennis stroke
20 Tin
21 Bluish-green fish
22 Soreness
25 Bisque server
26 EPA's concern
27 Took in
29 Tossed items
31 Used-car site
32 Go up
35 Tycoon
38 Madrid month
40 Jug handle
41 Wrinkled fruit
42 10th U.S. president
43 Provoke
45 Reverence
46 NYC station
48 Swizzle stick
50 Aphrodite's child
52 Nebraska's largest city
55 Whirl of water
56 Traditional knowledge
57 Physical discomfort
59 Boston hrs.
60 Demolition expert?
64 Born
65 Susan Lucci's soap role
66 German river
67 Neighbor of Leb.
68 Smelling of fumes
69 Kind of drum

DOWN
1 Fire remnant
2 Pi follower
3 Debt reminder
4 Insurance claims
5 Order from Perry White
6 British __ Guards
7 Without stopping
8 Medicine vial
9 Appeared to be
10 Opp. of vertical
11 Detroit Piston player at home?
12 Gas name
13 Defame
18 Clark Kent's real name
21 Interior design
22 Shoelace tip
23 Long-time chum
24 Ale at the Ritz?
28 Spurn
30 Noted architect
33 Noted Red leader
34 Reject disdainfully
36 Not married
37 Untrusting
39 "Harlem Nights" co-star Della
44 Step
47 That's enough!
49 Reverberate anew
50 1985 John Malkovich film
51 Blush wines
53 First Lady of the '50s
54 Smart follower?
58 Novi Sad resident
60 Of a female
61 Reunion attendees
62 Chang's brother
63 Old Olds

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

V	A	D	I	S	■	S	O	D	S	■	A	S	A	P
A	R	I	S	E	■	L	U	R	E	■	C	O	C	O
S	C	R	O	D	■	E	C	O	N	■	R	O	I	L
T	H	E	M	A	N	W	H	O	S	P	E	N	D	S
■	■	■	E	N	A	■	■	L	E	E	■	■	■	■
A	B	B	R	■	N	A	I	■	S	T	E	P	P	E
B	O	A	■	T	A	R	O	T	■	A	R	E	A	L
H	I	S	L	A	S	T	D	O	L	L	A	R	T	O
O	S	I	E	R	■	S	O	F	A	S	■	R	E	P
R	E	C	I	T	E	■	S	U	B	■	D	Y	N	E
■	■	■	■	A	L	T	■	■	E	S	E	■	■	■
B	U	Y	A	N	E	W	B	I	L	L	F	O	L	D
O	R	A	L	■	V	I	O	L	■	A	E	R	I	E
L	I	M	A	■	E	N	O	L	■	T	A	C	O	S
A	S	S	N	■	N	E	T	S	■	S	T	A	N	K

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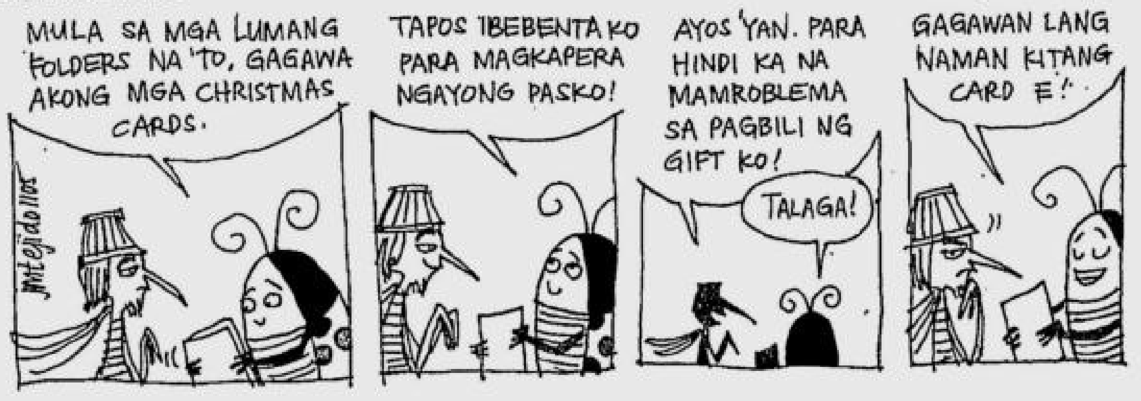
12/2/05

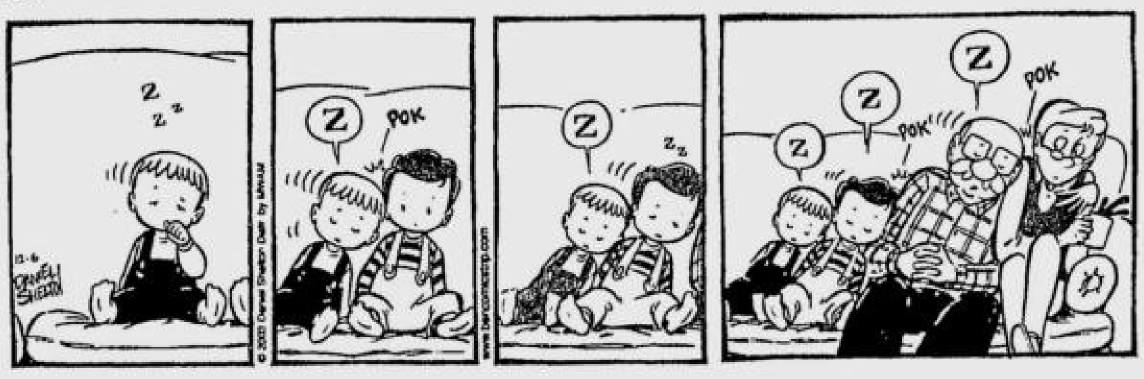
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MULA SA MGA LUMANG FOLDERS NA 'TO, GAGAWA AKONG MGA CHRISTMAS CARDS.
TAPOS IBEBENTA KO PARA MAGKAPERA NGAYONG PASKO!
AYOS 'YAN. PARA HINDI KA NA MAMROBLEMA SA PAGBILI NG GIFT KO!
TALAGA!
GAGAWAN LANG NAMAN KITANG CARD E!

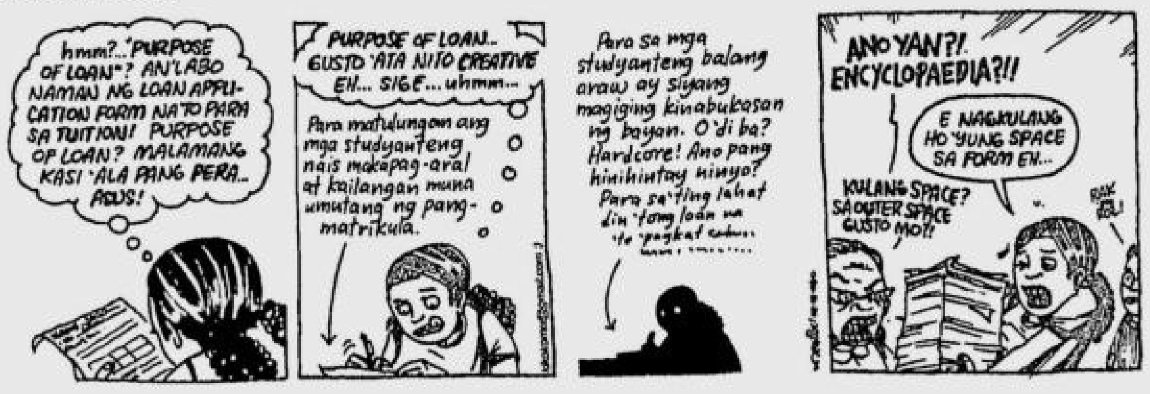
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


Z Z Z
Z
POK
Z
POK

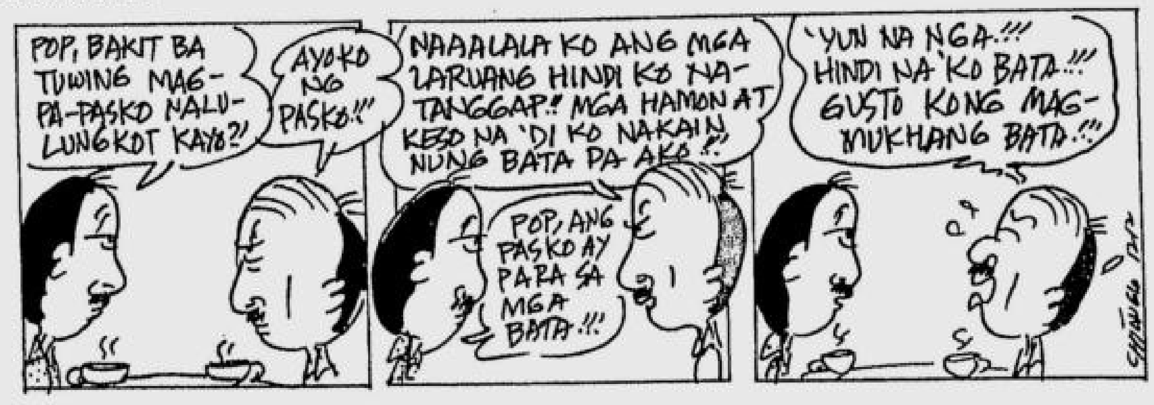
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hmm?.. "PURPOSE OF LOAN"? AN'LABO NAMAN NG LOAN APPLICATION FORM NA'TO PARA SA TUITION! PURPOSE OF LOAN? MALAMANG KASI 'ALA PANG PERA.. ADUS!
PURPOSE OF LOAN.. GUSTO 'ATA NITO CREATIVE EH... SIGE... uhmm..
Para matulungan ang mga studyanteng nais makapag-aral at kailangan muna umutang ng pang-matrikula.
Para sa mga studyanteng balang araw ay siyang magiging kinabukasan ng bayan. O'di ba? Hardcore! Ano pang hinihintay ninyo? Para sa'ting lahat din 'tong loan na 'to 'pagkat
ANO YAN?! ENCYCLOPAEDIA?!!
E NAGKULANG HO 'YUNG SPACE SA FORM EH...
KULANG SPACE? SA OUTER SPACE GUSTO MO?!

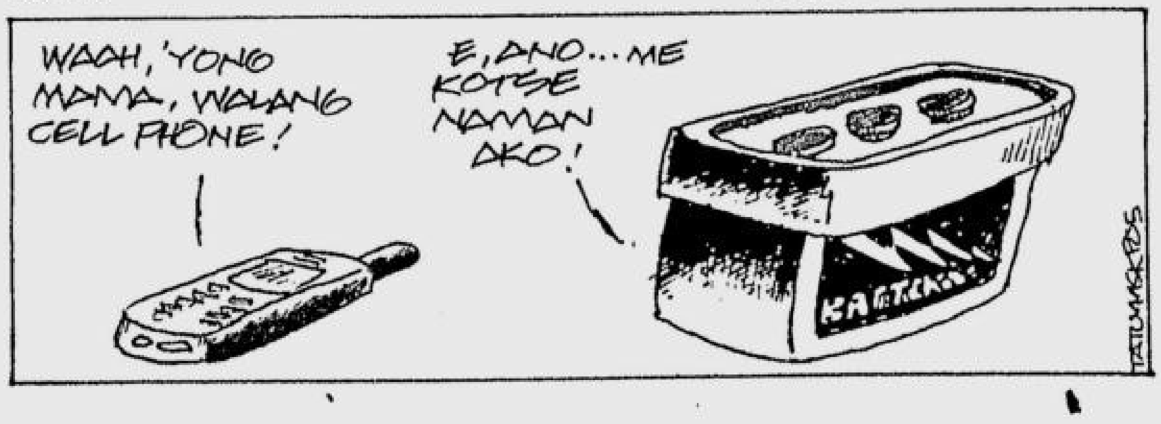
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, BAKIT BA TUWING MAG-PA-PASKO NALULUNGKOT KAYO?!
AYOKO NG PASKO!!
NAAALALA KO ANG MGA LARUANG HINDI KO NATANGGAP!! MGA HAMON AT KESO NA 'DI KO NAKAIN NUNG BATA PA AKO!!
POP, ANG PASKO AY PARA SA MGA BATA!!!
'YUN NA NGA!!! HINDI NA 'KO BATA!!! GUSTO KONG MAG-MUKHANG BATA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING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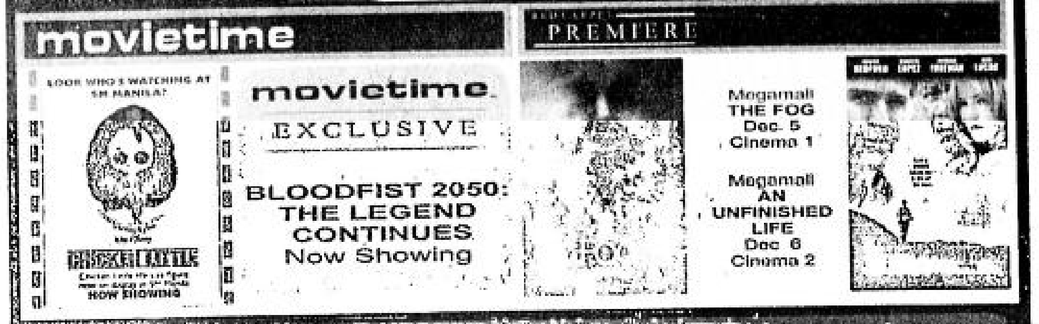

movietime
EXCLUSIVE
BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
Now Showing

Megamall
THE FOG
Dec. 5
Cinema 1

Megamall
AN UNFINISHED LIFE
Dec 6
Cinema 2

BE THE FIRST TO WATCH

WORLD-CLASS, PROUDLY PINOY!
chicken little
Just Like Heaven

Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros • Chicken Little • Hari Ng Sablay • Just Like Heaven • Merry Christmas

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/05:00/7:00/08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:25END
2 THE MAN
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/05:00 07:00/08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:25END

MEGAMALL
1 THE MYTH
11:15FS/11:40FS/02:10/04:40 07:10/09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 CINEMA 1
RESERVED
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
05:30MF/07:30
09:15LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:55FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE MYTH
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 THE MAN
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
9 KITCHIE AND BARBIE RELOAD
10 TRUMPETS
11 MERRY CHRISTMAS
12 PRIME

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 PRIME
7 THE MYTH
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MAN
3 APRIL SNOW
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 MERRY CHRISTMAS
3 PRIME
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
10 APRIL SNOW
11 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
12 THE MAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ZTHE MAN
5 THE MYTH
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 PRIME

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 THE MAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE MAN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY MANILA
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE MYTH
7 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
8 PRIME
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 MERRY CHRISTMAS
11 FLIGHTPLAN
12 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CINEMA [illegible] PLAZA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MAN
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 HARI NG SABLAY

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TONIGHT!!!
December 2, 2005
Friday • 8:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 9
December 9, 2005
Friday • 8:30 pm
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LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 CRY WOLF
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 THE MAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 RESERVED
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY ILOILO
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 APRIL SNOW
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 WAITING

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Roger Daltrey—who, what, why and when

NEW YORK—WHO ARE YOU, Roger Daltrey?

To millions of his generation, he will always be the front man for one of the greatest rock bands, the Who.

He uttered the best scream on record ("Won't Get Fooled Again") and is enshrined in the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame with original bandmates Pete Townshend, John Entwistle and Keith Moon. But Daltrey has always been a bit of an enigma.

Sheet-metal worker, TV Shakespearean actor, trout farmer, commander of the British Empire, 10-time granddad, "Scrooge" on Broadway and the personification of the Who's "Tommy." They're all Daltrey.

Who are you? Indeed.

Daltrey, a spry 61, his golden locks cropped close now, gave a few insights in a recent interview with Reuters while in New York to promote a DVD set of Who live performances of "Tommy" and "Quadrophenia."

"See me ... feel me ... heal me..."

Umbilical link

"Tommy? There's a big part of me in there. That's the beauty of the piece; it's a big part of everybody," he said, with a mouthful of West London vowels. "For a period of our life we feel deaf, dumb and blind.

"I am umbilically linked to Tommy in a way only I can know," he said of the Townshend-penned work about a deaf and blind mute, which the flamboyant British director Ken Russell made into a movie starring Daltrey in 1975.

Looking back

Does he look back fondly despite the deaths of Moon and Entwistle and Townshend's legal trouble over downloaded child pornography? "Oh yeah. I mean, where that musicality came from, I don't know. The chemistry was extraordinary."

Daltrey is trying to recreate that chemistry in a new album with Townshend due next year. "Pete called a halt to it (last year). I think it wasn't quite ready and we lost our drummer (Zak Starkey) who went on the road with Oasis for a year."

In the meantime, what music does he listen to now? "There's some great bands in England, Kaiser Chiefs, Muse and Kasabian.

"(But) to be honest with you, since the '70s, I don't listen to much music apart from classical. I still listen to Dylan and some of the old blues, but I'm very particular about blues, it can bore me to tears." *Reuters*

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
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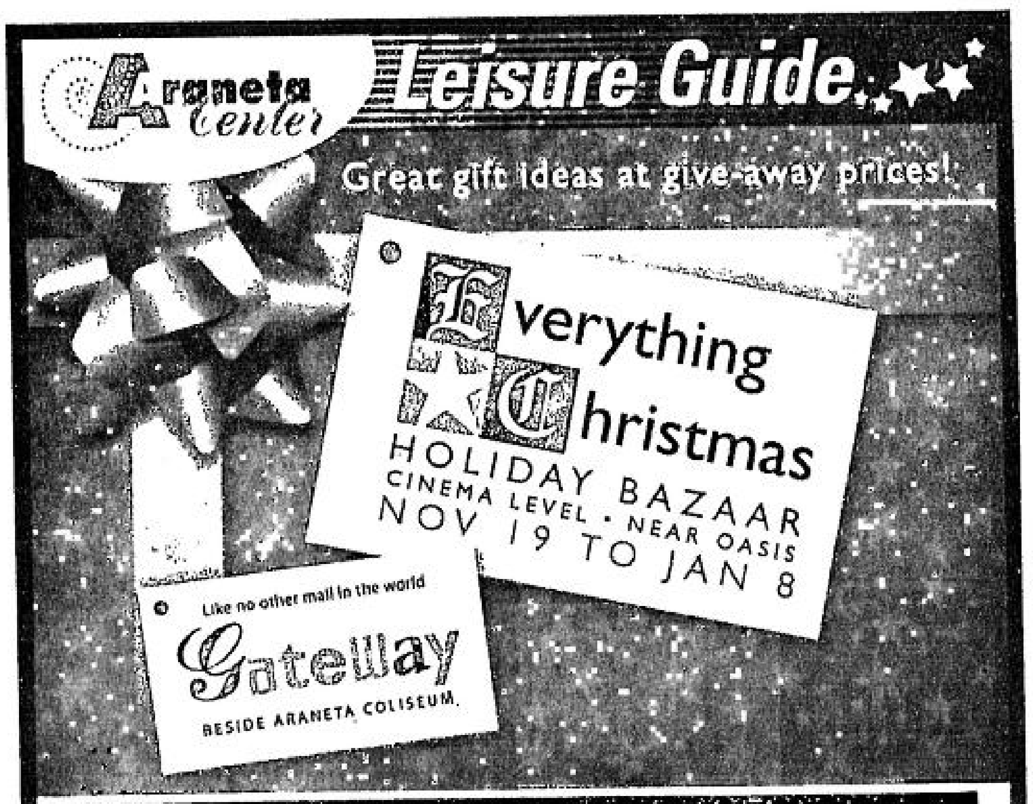
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 PRIME (R13) 11:20, 2:05 EXORCISM (PG13) 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CHICKEN LITTLE GP 11:45, 1:40, 3:35, 5:30, 7:25, 9:20
CINEMA 4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN - PG13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
CINEMA 5 CHICKEN LITTLE GP - 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
December 2 & 3 TIM PAYAG & AL MANALO - Stand Up Comedy 8:30PM
December 10, 2005 CUESHE 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Araneta Center Leisure Guide


Great gift ideas at give-away prices!
Everything Christmas
HOLIDAY BAZAAR
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Like no other mall in the world
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BESIDE ARANETA COLISEUM

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ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA MERRY CHRISTMAS 12:30 / 6:20 HARRY POTTER 3:00 / 9:00
JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	CHICKEN LITTLE 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
MERRY CHRISTMAS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:20
HARI NG SABLAY 12:35 / 3:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15	PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00	❹ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
❷ HARI NG SABLAY 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	❺ THE MYTH 12:10 / 2:55 / 5:40 / 8:25
❸ CHICKEN LITTLE 12:10 R3 / 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
ATENEO - LA SALLE DREAM GAMES '05
Dec 8 Thu LEGENDS GAME 4:30 pm DREAM GAME 7pm
URCC - THE ART OF WAR
December 10, Saturday 8:00 pm

CENTER EVENTS
Absolutely Christmas
HOLIDAY BAZAAR
The Season's best buys at bargain prices!
November 11 to January 6
Ali Mall Exchange, Ground Floor Ali Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

ABS-CBN wins injunction ...

From page A4-1

National Telecommunications Commission for pay TV companies to carry free TV channels.

ABS-CBN's Channel 2 and 23 are classified as free TV. Even GMA Network Inc. earlier complained that Dream Satellite's operations had been undermining its regional broadcasts.

Unlike other cable televisions that carry, for instance, ABS-CBN's signal only in a particular city or province, Dream Satellite transmitted it nationwide. This affected regional broadcasting being pursued by the network giants.

"It (ABS-CBN) avers that as the owner of copyrights to the television programs it produces and broadcasts over Channel 2 and 23, it has the exclusive right to carry out, authorize or prevent the rebroadcasting of its broadcasts," the Court of Appeals noted.

The broadcast firm claimed that the NTC's must-carry rule should be interpreted as "must carry when requested" by a free TV company like ABS-CBN.

According to the appellate court, ABS-CBN alleged it had been suffering "irreparable damage" on its regional operations caused by Dream Satellite's nationwide broadcasts of Channel 2 and 23.

"Thus, viewership of the programs shown through the regional broadcasts have been declining and provincial advertisers have been dissuaded from placing advertisements during the airing of television programs shown through regional broadcasts," the CA said in its order.

Cable operators, however, said that the NTC's must-carry rule was meant to give the public wider access to sources of constructive information.

The must-carry rule, according to PCTA chair Manuel Dabao, favors broadcasting organizations as well as the public.

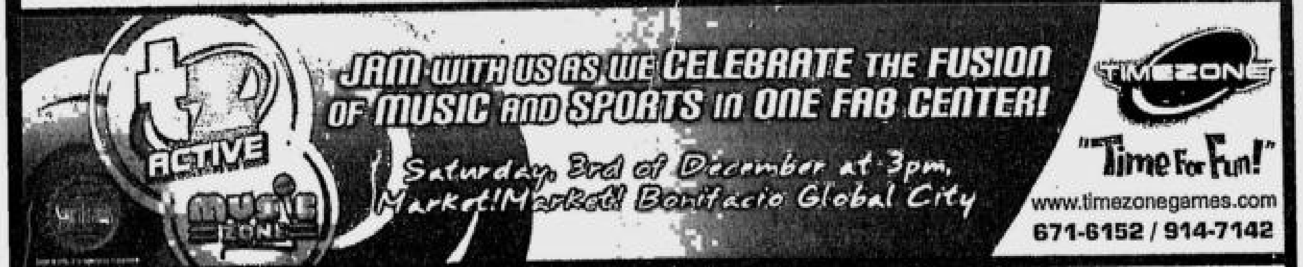
The policy prevents cable television companies from excluding broadcasting outfits especially in those places not reached by signal. Otherwise, Dabao said in an earlier interview, it would deprive viewers in remote areas access to programs available to those living in cities.

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA & GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!


JAM WITH US AS WE CELEBRATE THE FUSION OF MUSIC AND SPORTS IN ONE FAB CENTER!
Saturday, 3rd of December at 3pm, Market!Market! Bonifacio Global City
TIMEZONE
"Time For Fun!"
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At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Thomas Christmas Surprise December 1 to 4, 2005	Anson's Emporium December 1 to 2, 2005 Holiday Table Setting December 2 to 18, 2005 Acoustic Chiristmas Serenade w/ Chedi December 2, 9, 16	Speechcom's Christmas Program December 4, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra Christmas Show
December 2 to 4 & 9 to 11 2005, GB 3 Park - 8PM
Christmas Fireworks Display
December 2 to 4 & 9 to 11 2005, GB 3 Park - 9PM

Greenbelt Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
MAN OF LA MANCHA - The Musical
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
November 11 to December 18, 2005
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

THX CERTIFIED CINEMA

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 HARI NG SABLAY	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CHICKEN LITTLE	2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 THE MYTH	6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	7 PRIME
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 PRIME GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHICKEN LITTLE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 PRIME	5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE	3 HARI NG SABLAY	4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

Sex. Murder. Mystery.
Welcome to the party.
Robert Downey Jr.
Val Kilmer
kiss kiss bAng bang
From The creator of Lethal weapon.

OPENS DECEMBER 7 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

kiss kiss bAng bang

"OUTRAGEOUS, OFF-THE-WALL FUN."
--- Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"THE MOST ORIGINAL FILM THIS YEAR."
--- Pete Hammond, MAXIM MAGAZINE

"AN OFF THE WALL WINNER."
--- Stephen Mosallem, INTERVIEW MAGAZINE

AYALA CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

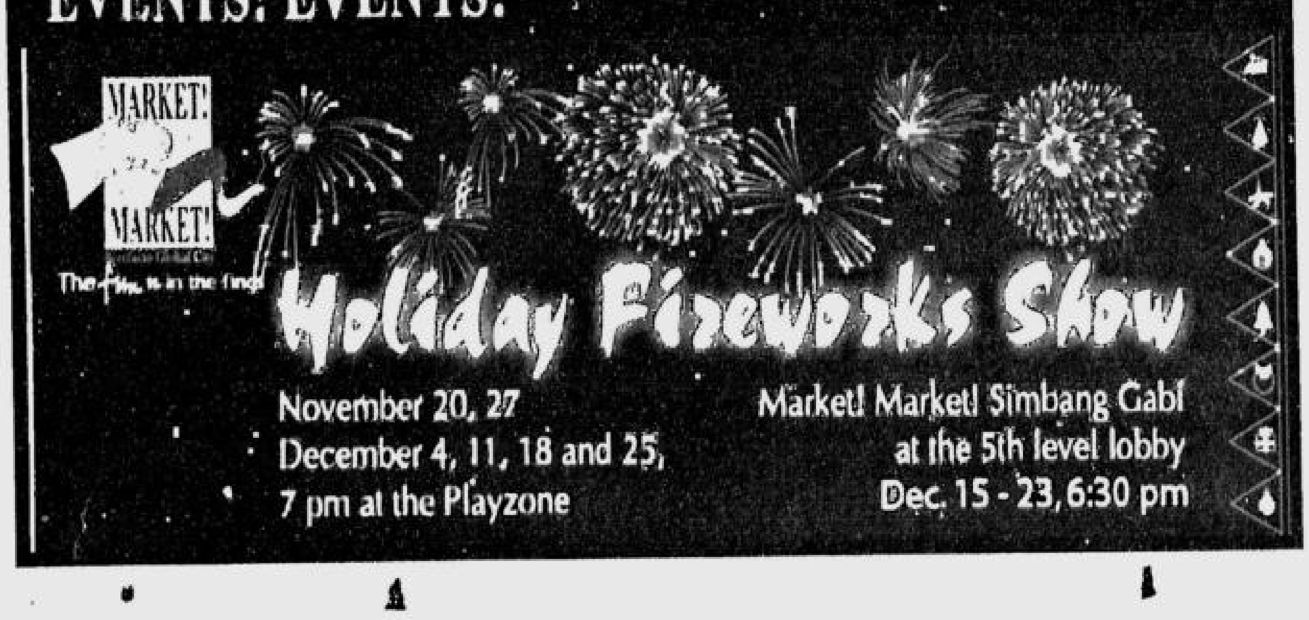
MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

1. Just Like Heaven
2. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
3. Chicken Little
4. Hari ng Sablay
5. Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros

EVENTS! EVENTS!



November 20, 27
December 4, 11, 18 and 25,
7 pm at the Playzone

Market! Market! Simbang Gabi
at the 5th level lobby
Dec. 15 - 23, 6:30 pm

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 4 • THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 PRIME
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 HARI NG SABLAY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 THE MYTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE 12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

2 PRIME
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HARI NG SABLAY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 THE MYTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 PRIME
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

3 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

5 THE MYTH
1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10

6 APRIL SNOW
1:00 3.00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

8 HARI NG SABLAY
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

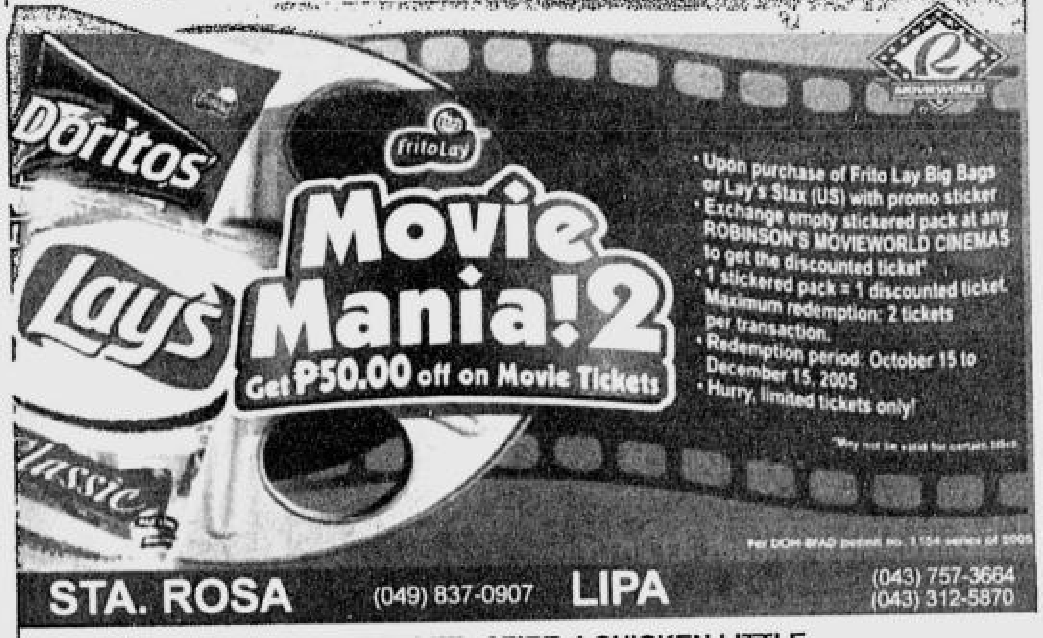
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE



- Upon purchase of Frito Lay Big Bags or Lay's Stax (US) with promo sticker
- Exchange empty stickered pack at any ROBINSON'S MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS to get the discounted ticket*
- 1 stickered pack = 1 discounted ticket. Maximum redemption: 2 tickets per transaction.
- Redemption period: October 15 to December 15, 2005
- Hurry, limited tickets only!

*May not be valid for certain titles

Per DOH-BFAD permit no. 1154 series of 2005

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
4 THE MYTH
5 HARI NG SABLAY

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARI NG SABLAY

DASMARIÑAS (046) 862-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE MYTH
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
4 THE MYTH
5 HARI NG SABLAY

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 CRY_WOLF
6 THE MYTH

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Orange & Lemons, new chart toppers

SPIN CITY

ORANGE & LEMONS' REPACKAGED "STRIKE Whilst the Iron Is Hot" has been certified platinum. The album outsold all local albums last week, according to reports from record dealers, including Tower Records. The new edition contains the nationwide smash hit, "Pinoy Ako," theme from ABS-CBN's toprating "Pinoy Big Brother."

Industry insiders say the group has dislodged fellow Universal Records artists Parokya ni Edgar as the company's topselling band (Gary V remains UR's overall title holder).

Among the fresh cuts are "Blue Moon," theme song from Regal Films' movie of the same title.

ORANGE & LEMONS

Alicia Keys Unplugged

NINE-TIME GRAMmy winner Alicia Keys is back with "Unplugged," featuring her live performance from the MTV show of the same title.

The performance was recorded on July 14 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Carrier single is "Unbreakable."

The album debuted as No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album chart in its first week of release. It is now available on CD, from Sony BMG.

ALICIA KEYS

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"EXACTLY WHAT FANS ARE LOOKING FOR, OFFERING EYE-BOGGLING SPECTACLE AND LOTS OF WELL-EXECUTED ACTION SCENES." - KYLE SMITH, NEW YORK POST
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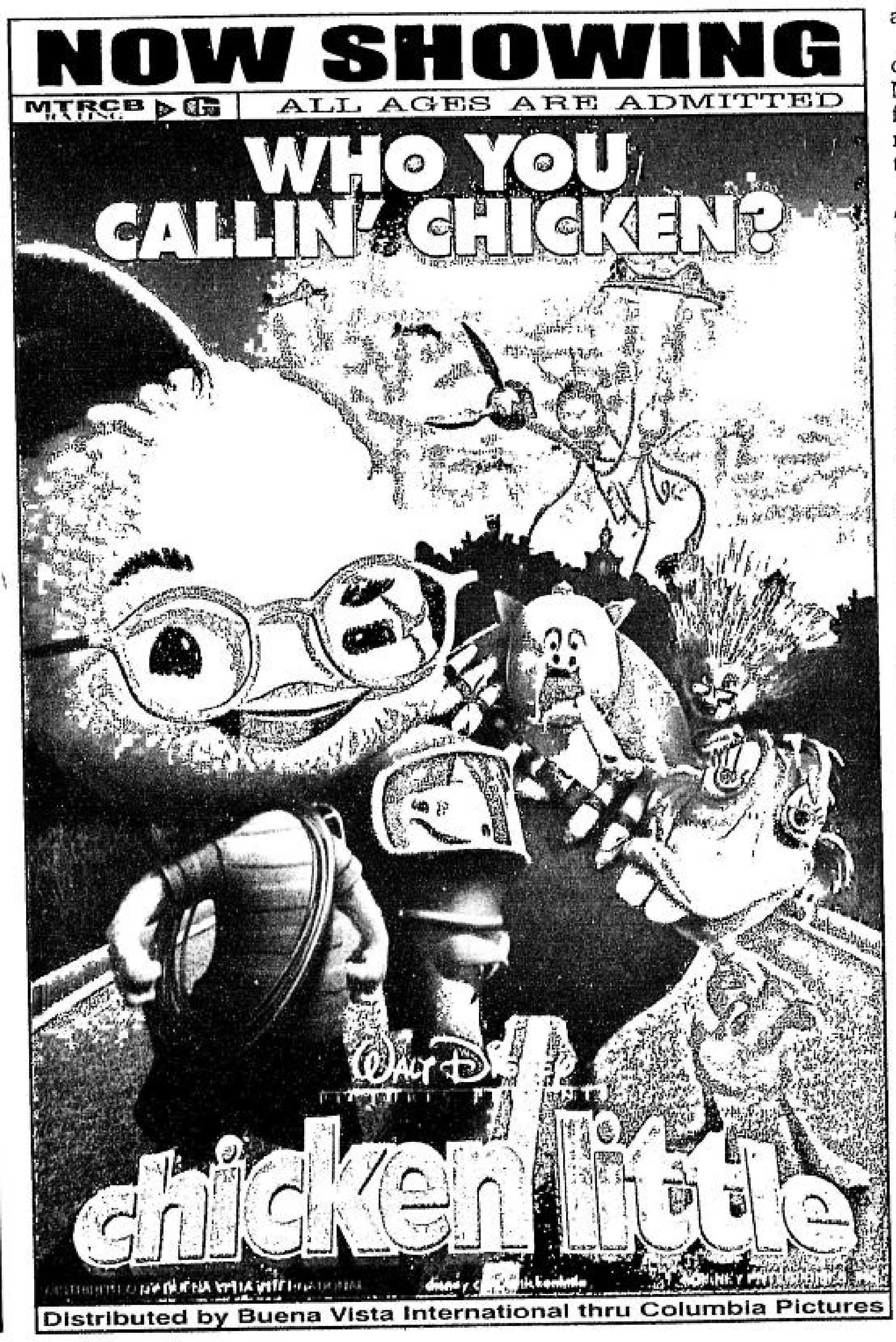
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PRIME R13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS PG13 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20,9:30	JUST LIKE HEAVEN GP 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15

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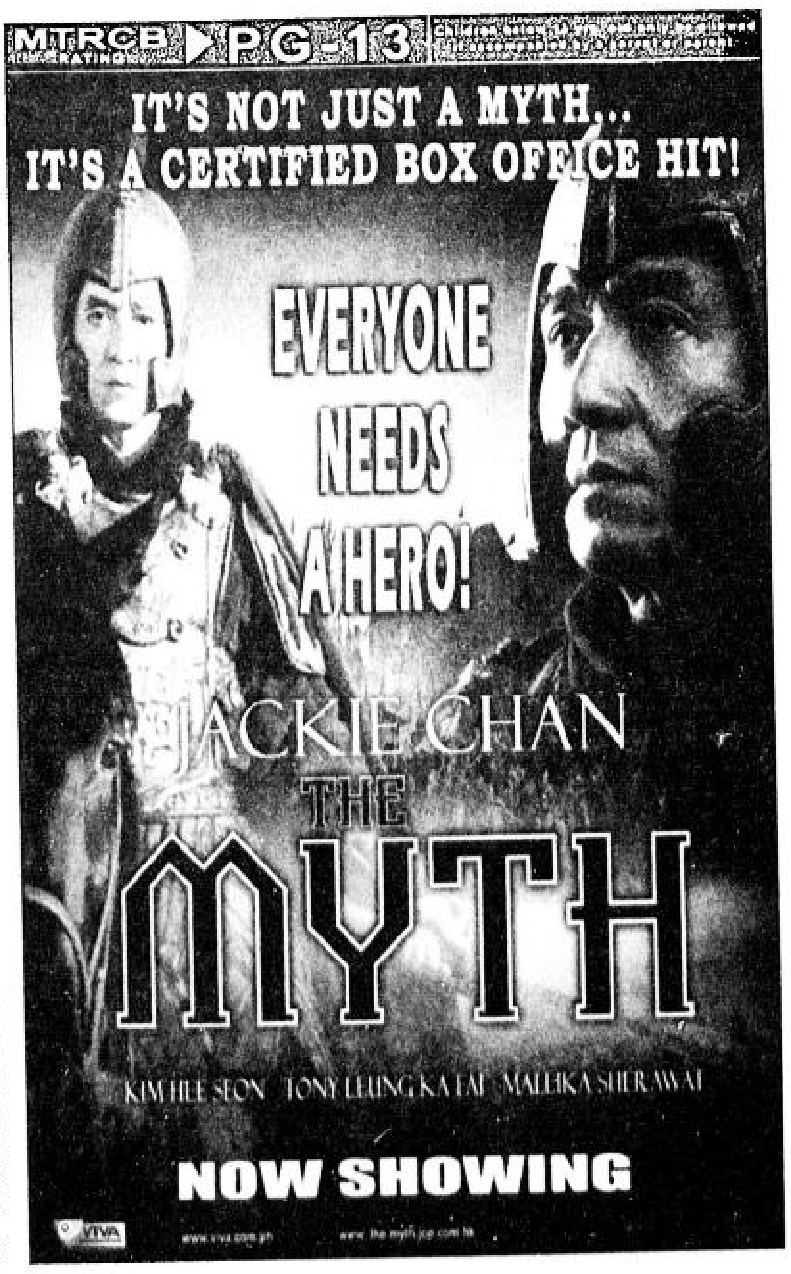
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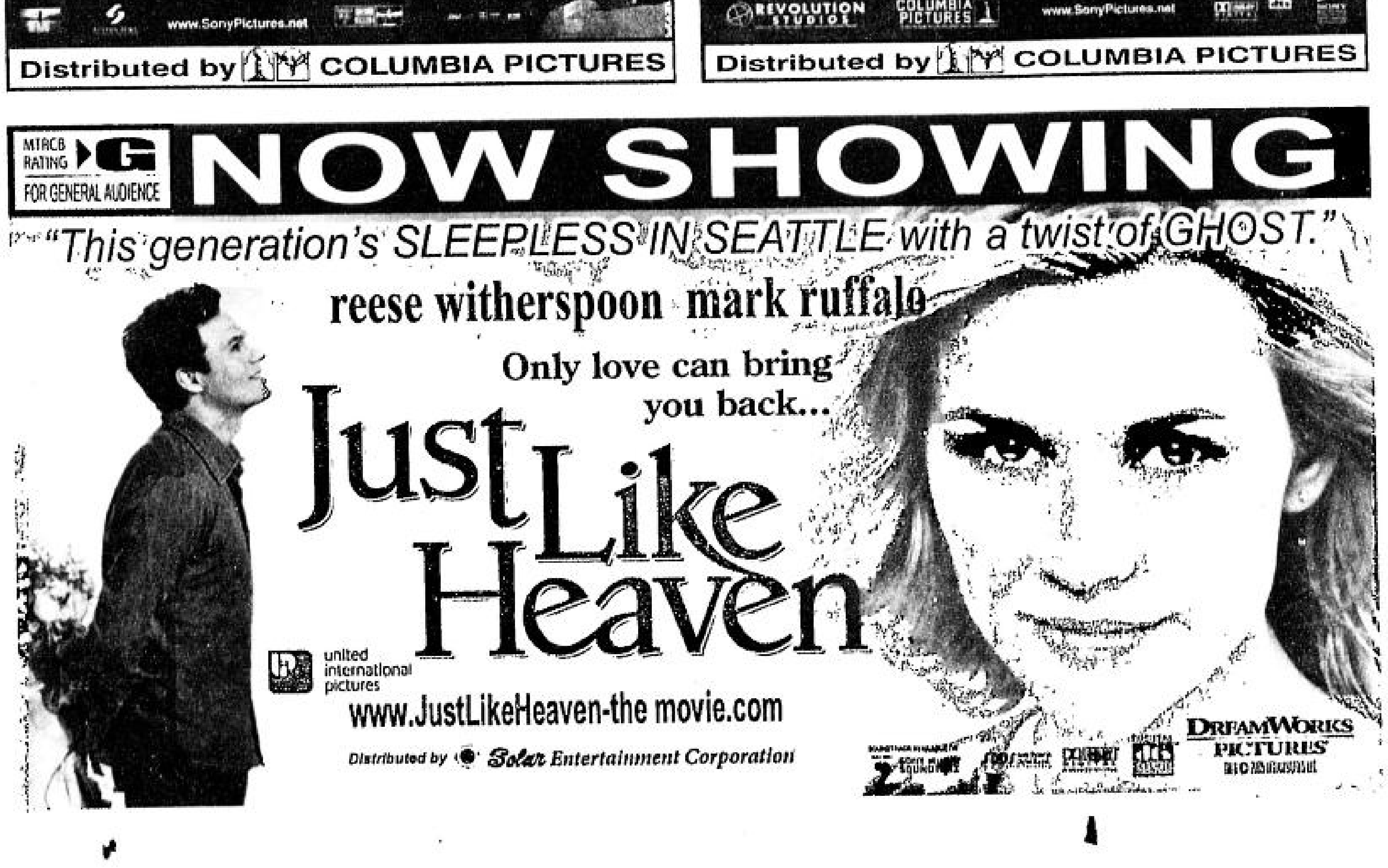
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WHAT'S INSIDE

Billionaire affairs /B3

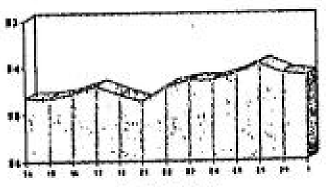
Customs tightens monitoring of car imports /B14

Railways next in privatization line

PNR, LRT, MRT 3 may be up for auction, says DOTC

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.22 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 30, 2005

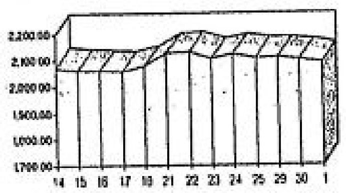
¥ 119.88 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 1, 2005

GOLD: $494.70-495.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 1, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares fall 0.6%

SHARES YESTERDAY FELL, LED by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and shopping mall operator SM Prime, after the country reported that the

SHARES/ B3

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE TRANSPORTATION department is planning on privatizing major railway lines next year to spare the national government from subsidizing mass transport systems to the tune of more than P2.5 billion a year, according to the official in charge of railways.

Transport Undersecretary Guiling Mamondiong said the agency would push for the sale, or to at least privatize operations, of major railways such as lines 1 and 2 of the Light Rail Transit Authority and existing tracks of the Philippine National Railway.

According to sources in the transport sector, government subsidies to major railway systems—such as the Metro Rail Transit 3, the LRTA and PNR—may even amount to more than P5 billion each year.

Before the government can privatize MRT 3, Mamondiong said, it must first buy out the ownership of the railway from Fil Estate-led Metro Rail Transit Corp.

"Our intention to start privatizing railways is also the reason why the buy-

RAILWAYS/ B3

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Hotel occupancy rates in Metro Manila (Jan-Aug, 2005)

	DELUXE	FIRST CLASS	STANDARD	ECONOMY
Room Area	Min 25 sq.m	Min 25 sq.m	Min 18 sq.m	Min 18 sq.m
Private bathroom	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bathtub	✓	✓	✗	✗
Shower with 24 hr cold water	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hot water	✓	✓	✓	✗
Telephone	✓	✓	✗	✗
Radio	✓	✓	✗	✗
24-hr room service	✓	✓	✗	✗
Valet parking	✓	✓	✓	✓
Airport transfer	✓	✓	✗	✗
Limousine service	✓	✓	✓	✗
Function hall facilities	✓	✓	✗	✗
Swimming pool, tennis golf & gym	✓	tie-up	✗	✗
Laundry and dry cleaning services	✓	✓	tie-up	✗
Parlor/barbershop	✓	✓	✗	✗
Foreign Exchange	✓	✓	✗	✗
Safety Deposit Box	✓	✓	✗	✗
Refrigerator and mini bar	✓	✗	✗	✗

Source: Department of Tourism

THE AVERAGE occupancy rate of hotels in Metro Manila in the last eight months was 70.54 percent, an increase of 4.63 percent from the same period in 2004. Deluxe hotels had the highest average occupancy rate at 73.03 percent, followed by first class hotels at 69.46 percent, and standard and economy hotels at 66.33 percent and 63.51 percent, respectively. The increase in the occupancy rates was attributed to the increasing number of conventions and seminars held in the hotels.

Chona Galang, PDI Research

BONOAN

RATE program hobbled by loss of DOF graft buster

By Daxim L. Lucas

EFFORTS TO END GRAFT AND corruption in the government's top revenue collecting agencies were dealt a heavy blow after the creator of the finance department's high profile anti-tax evasion program resigned from his post.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel P. Bonoan tendered his irrevocable resignation to President Macapagal-Arroyo early in November, saying he was "torn between continuing to serve the Filipino public and meeting the demands of raising a young family."

"After much reflection I realized that I can, in another capacity, best serve the needs—both emotional and financial—of my family and still contribute, albeit indirectly, to the welfare of our people," he said in his letter dated Nov. 8.

Bonoan is acknowledged as the force behind the government's controversial Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program, which sought to deter tax evasion trough an aggressive "name and shame" campaign.

Under Bonoan's watch—and with the backing of then Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima—the RATE program became one of the cornerstones of the Arroyo ad-

RATE/ B8

Net portfolio inflows surged to $2.1B in 1st 11 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN INFLOWS TO LOCAL stocks, debt papers and bank products surged to $2.1 billion in the first 11 months versus the measly $425.5 million that trickled down a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported.

Towards the latter part of November, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. noted that portfolio investments from abroad yielded huge net inflows especially to local stocks "on the back of encouraging developments in the fiscal sector and the continued appreciation of the peso."

Investor sentiment on the Philippines considerably improved since the government hurdled the legal roadblocks against the expanded value added tax (EVAT) reform law and implemented the key tax measure on Nov. 1.

A net inflow of $61.3 million was recorded for the month of November, a substantial increase from the windfall during each of the two previous months.

"For the most part, foreign investor interest was enhanced by the implementation of the EVAT, which is expected to improve the country's fiscal position and credit rating, easing world prices, the strengthening of the peso and positive corporate earnings results," Tetangco said.

The Philippines reaped only $17 million in net portfolio inflows for October, even slower than the $38.7 million posted in September.

Portfolio inflows are sometimes called "hot money" due to their volatile nature.

New portfolio investments during the month of November totaled $278 million, of which $187.4 million or 67 percent went to stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

NET PORTFOLIO/ B3

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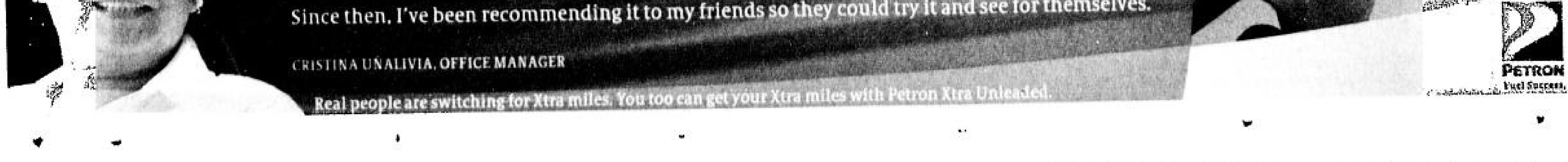

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Court OKs rehab bid of PPI

Plan holders cry 'injustice'

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Alcuin Papa

THE MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL Court has approved the petition of embattled pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) for rehabilitation.

The order immediately raised a howl from the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition), saying the approval of the rehabilitation of PPI, owned by the Yuchengco family, was an "injustice" done to them and their children. The PEP Coalition represents the disgruntled plan holders of the troubled pre-need firm.

"It's going to be a very bad Christmas and a bad New Year for all those who bought plans in these Yuchengco companies," said Philip Piccio, president of the PEP Coalition.

PPI, which has 34,000 traditional plan holders, is the second pre-need plan to obtain the court's go-ahead to undertake a rehabilitation program after Platinum Plans. Pending before the court is the petition for rehabilitation of pre-need giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc.

In an order dated Nov. 16, Judge Romeo Barza said that based on documents filed before the court, "there appears to be no discrimination or unequal treatment of the traditional education plan holders vis-a-vis the fixed plan holders."

Barza said there was merit in PPI's petition asking the court to allow it to go through corporate rehabilitation last April.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which opposed the rehabilitation plan, has yet to decide on whether or not to appeal the ruling.

The SEC earlier argued that PPI, when combined with its defunct fixed value plans provider Lifetime Plans Inc., had enough funds to pay the benefits of plan holders.

Piccio also said that in their view, the granting of PPI's rehabilitation "means the company is illiquid."

"But we have already proven that there is no need to rehabilitate the company because the company is liquid. They just made it appear that it is illiquid by a series of maneuvers which has already been classified by the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) as fraudulent. The SEC has already categorically said it (PPI) is not illiquid."

Barza has ordered rehabilitation receiver Mamerto Marcelo to evaluate the rehabilitation plan and submit his recommendation not later than 120 days from Oct. 5.

Barza said that the problems besetting other pre-need compa-

COURT/ B3

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AUCTION DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2005 (SUN), 10:30AM
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7 Names of winners will be published in major newspapers (PDI, Phil Star, MB). Winners will be notified via registered mail.
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(As of December 1, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33.5	33.5	32.5	33	537,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59	58.5	58.5	1,380,500
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17	17	17	17	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.62	1,990,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	54.5	52.5	52.5	35,400
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	20,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	30.5	31	309,300
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	19,100
Phil. Savings Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	600
Security Bank Corp.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	16,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30.5	30.5	30	30	1,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3100	3100	3100	3100	70
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2155	2155	2155	2155	50
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14.25	14	14	68,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	950,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	770	755	760	6,320
Ipeople Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	130,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.048	0.05	4,300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.5	3.35	3.45	3,562,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1730	1740	1730	1735	96,740
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	59,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.5	15	15	36,400
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.75	23.75	687,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	3,492,000
Petron Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	1,340,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	45,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.4	215,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	220,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.8	837,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.1	3.2	3	3.2	78,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	116,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	9,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	40	39.5	40	59,100
Pancake House Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.65	104,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	84,300
San Miguel Corp. B	88.5	88.5	88	88	47,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	4,900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	50,000,000
Ayala Corp.	347.5	350	345	347.5	246,110
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	210,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	641,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	6,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	1,228,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	580,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.93	0.89	0.91	3,670,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	6,703,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.31	6,680,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	70,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	80,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51.5	52.5	50.5	50.5	858,400
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	98,000
Ipvg Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	80,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	71,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	1,325,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	4,830,000
Paxys Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,407,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	120,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
SM Investments Corp.	242	242	238	239	516,890
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	750,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.13	0.13	1,590,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,450,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3,000
Pryce Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	7,147,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.52	1.46	1.52	1,267,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,020,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.25	300,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	10,000
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.6	17,739,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	607,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	4,740,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	1,480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	560,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.205	240,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	2,200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6	43,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	35,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.9	11,679,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	130,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.3	6.3	6	6	1,257,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	7.9	7.9	23,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	3,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.235	0.225	0.225	30,390,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.26	10,640,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	78,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	135,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	1,343,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.68	1.68	1.58	1.58	8,023,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	28	28	902,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	80,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	60,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	26,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	310,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	4,311,520	113,474,875.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	197,025,360	556,382,355.00
PRO	39,634,000	266,345,740.00
Mining	278,511,900	63,349,280.00
OIL	2,526,000	231,300.00
GRAND TOTALS :	522,008,780	999,783,550.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	614.64	DOWN 3.38
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,270.85	DOWN 12.20
PRO	806.00	DOWN 8.68
Mining	2,824.97	DOWN 58.69
OIL	3.01	DOWN 0.04
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,264.78	DOWN 6.57
Composite	2,086.18	DOWN 13.56

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22, NO. OF DECLINES: 43, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 58, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 123, NO. OF TRADES: 2,707

CURRENCIES

December 1, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.848176	1.000000	54.0360
Japan	Yen	0.007081	0.008348	0.4511
United Kingdom	Pound	1.466667	1.729200	93.4391
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109377	0.128956	6.9683
Switzerland	Franc	0.645001	0.760456	41.0920
Canada	Dollar	0.727924	0.858222	46.3749
Singapore	Dollar	0.501612	0.591401	31.9569
Australia	Dollar	0.626979	0.739208	39.9438
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.251896	2.654985	143.4648
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226175	0.266660	14.4092
Brunei	Dollar	0.500133	0.589657	31.8627
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020582	0.024266	1.3112
UAE	Dirham	0.230935	0.272272	14.7125
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.179000	63.7084
Argentina	Peso	0.285601	0.336723	18.1952
Brazil	Real	0.386061	0.455166	24.5953
Denmark	Kroner	0.134180	0.158198	8.5484
India	Rupee	0.018483	0.021791	1.1775
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224802	0.265041	14.3218
Mexico	New Peso	0.080350	0.094733	5.1190
New Zealand	Dollar	0.595421	0.702001	37.9333
Norway	Kroner	0.125920	0.148460	8.0222
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014200	0.016742	0.9047
South Africa	Rand	0.131301	0.154804	8.3650
Korea	Won	0.000821	0.000968	0.0523
Sweden	Kroner	0.105055	0.123860	6.6929
Syria	Pound	0.016339	0.019264	1.0409
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025342	0.029878	1.6145
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000395	0.000466	0.0252

Billionaire affairs

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FAMILY OF BROTHER EDDIE spokesperson Luis Sison has executed a maneuver considered declassé among the local elite: Chronicle the extramarital affairs of their late father in order to press their inheritance claim on the multibillion-peso estate of their dad's paramour.

The Sison children, represented by restaurateur George Sison, said their father, Carlos Moran Sison, and the late Pacita Ongsiako de los Reyes-Phillips, had "interpersonal relations" despite the two being very much married during their long lives.

In addition to always lending "comfort and reliance on each other's shoulders," the elder Sison and Phillips were also business partners, the Sison children told the Makati Regional Trial Court in a manifestation last week.

The Sisons claimed their father had gifted Phillips one of the four units he owned in Urdaneta Condominium. They said the two lovers were also partners in condominiums in the Westgate Plaza and Cacho-Gonzales condos in Makati.

The children said their mother, the late Priscilla Sison, even "stormed" and surprised their father and Phillips inside the Urdaneta condo in July 1975, after which their mother that same night threw their father out of their Forbes Park home.

After that, the father built himself a house on Magnolia Street in Dasmariñas Village, on a lot owned by Phillips.

In exchange, Sison allegedly gave Phillips a bigger lot on Morado Street, also in the same exclusive village, where the pre-war Miss Philippines built a home and lived until she died childless last March 10 at the age of 93.

"There are many other valuable properties, e.g. precious jewelry, that Carlos Moran Sison handed to Mrs. Phillips for safe-keeping," George Sison said.

"Surprisingly, these properties are not even mentioned" in the inventory filed by the executrix, Phillips niece and fellow lawyer, Victoria de los Reyes.

Despite being longtime friends, the Sisons have also asked the court that De los Reyes, a legal ethics lecturer, be discharged as executrix after the lawyer told the court the Phillips estate was worth only P100 million, instead of the P2-3 billion estimate made by other claimants.

In addition to the Sisons, Phillips' estranged husband, US doctor Ralph Phillips, is also seeking his conjugal half, despite being disinherited in the disputed will.

According to Phillips counsel Vicente Chuidian, the doctor left to live in the United States after discovering the extramarital relations of his wife.

Nevertheless, the Phillips couple never dissolved their marriage, and even maintained an active joint banking account in the United States, in addition to jointly owning a five-bedroom apartment in San Francisco, Chuidian said.

Now 90, Dr. Phillips stays in an Ohio retirement home built for veterans of foreign wars, where he was allegedly being financially supported by Mrs. Phillips, until the latter passed away.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who had been groaning under the not-entirely accurate impression that his office lost all the major cases under his watch, has fumbled on the Ombudsman case he had lodged against GMA adviser Roberto R. Romulo.

In dismissing the case, the Ombudsman said Chavez failed to present "not a single piece of evidence" to support his anti-graft complaint.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Court OKs . . .

From page B2

nies, including PPI, appeared to have been the result of obligations to the "traditional education plans" or education policies launched in the 1980s that promised to pay tuition fees regardless of their present rates.

He noted that companies offering fixed value plans with their corresponding trust funds did not have the same problems as those offering traditional education plans.

But the court noted that the trust funds corresponding to the fixed value plans of PPI's defunct subsidiary, Lifetime Plans, may not be used to pay for the obligations of the traditional education plans.

Barza acknowledged that PPI was a financially distressed corporation and that it was up to the court-named receiver to evaluate how best to revive the company.

PPI had said that its funds would have run out by continuing to pay the availing plan holders, especially those whose beneficiaries were enrolling in exclusive schools.

PPI officials claimed that it would still be impossible to settle the company's debts when these fell due, explaining that the trust funds of fixed-value education plans, memorial plans and pension plans could be used only to serve their respective plan holders.

Railways next in privatization thrust

From page B1

out plan of MRT 3 was revived this year," said the transport undersecretary.

An interagency team created to review the buyout proposal has not concluded its evaluation.

In anticipation of the sale, the LRTA and MRT 3 maintain mostly contractual employees, Mamondiong said.

Proceeds from the sale of the transport systems will allow the cash-strapped government to build new mass railway systems, said Mamondiong.

"We will talk with the business sector to push for the privatization of railways starting next year," he said.

LRTA administrator Mel Robles said his agency supported a long-standing plan of the government to sell the railway assets.

But the question is, who would be interested in buying the assets when the railway operators could not increase their fares, he asked.

LRTA and MRT 3 have been asking Malacañang for a P10 fare increase to partially recover the costs of higher fuel and electricity prices.

Without the fare hike, the government's subsidy to the two major railways continue to mount.

The railways transport over 800,000 passengers a day.

The government is subsidizing an average of P30 to P40 for every railway passenger. Robles said that in Line 1, the subsidy is about P24 for each commuter and, in Line 2, about P40 each passenger.

Every year, the government shells out a little less than a billion pesos each year to support LRTA operations.

In the case of MRT 3, the amount is much bigger since the government pays an annual rental fee, plus it services the loan of MRTC. PNR, which has been a financial black hole for decades, is being propped up by the government.

Net portfolio inflows . . .

From page B1

Capital repatriations amounted to $216.7 million which were traced to withdrawals of peso deposits as well as divestments in stocks and fixed rate Treasury notes (FXTNs).

"Peso deposits withdrawn for outward remittance mainly represent proceeds of earlier divestments from PSE-listed shares and government securities," Tetangco said.

On a gross basis, investments registered by the BSP during the January to November period summed up to $5.2 billion or more than double the $2 billion figure for the comparable period in 2004.

On the other hand, outflows/capital repatriations pertaining to registered foreign portfolio investments amounted to $3.1 billion, likewise more than twice the $1.5 billion total for the same period last year.

Shares of PSE-listed stocks gobbled up 68.7 percent or the biggest bulk of registered foreign portfolio investments.

Placements in peso-denominated government securities, primarily FXTNs, accounted for 30.7 percent while peso time deposits in banks and money market instruments issued by the local private sector made up by remaining portion.

"These investments were funded with new inward remittances of foreign exchange converted into pesos through banks operating in the Philippines," Tetangco said.

Shares fall 0.6%

From page B1

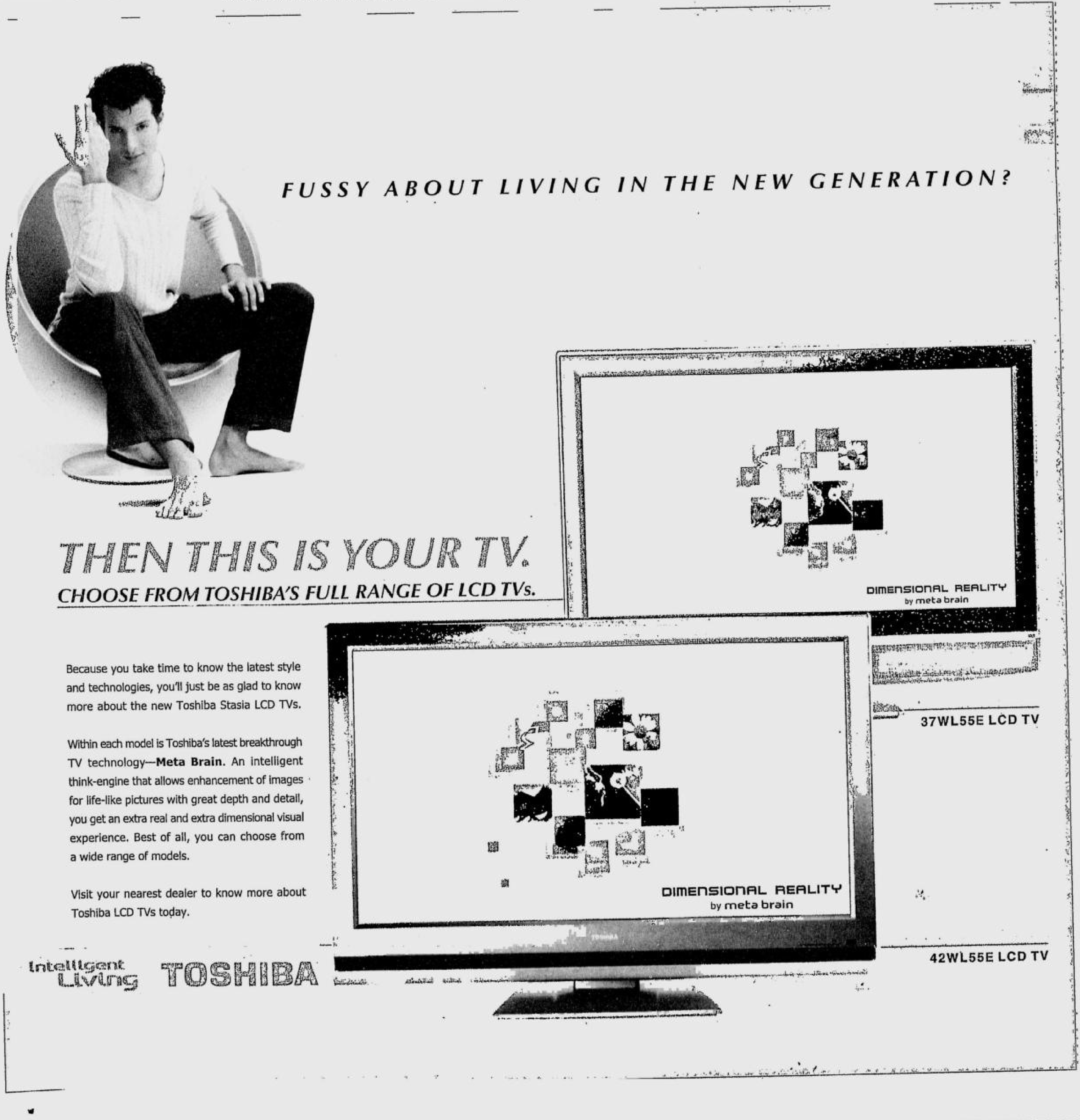
economy expanded less than expected in the third quarter.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index declined 13.56 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,086.18. It shed 0.4 percent on Wednesday after trading higher for most of last week.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was among the most active stocks, ending unchanged at P1,735.

Decliners led gainers 43 to 22, while 58 stocks were unchanged.

AP



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Asean expected to sign free trade deal with South Korea

FTA negotiations with India also ongoing

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN Nations, including the Philippines, is expected to sign a free trade agreement with South Korea during a leaders' summit to be held on Dec. 12 to 14, according to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila.

Favila said in a briefing that leaders of the 10-member Asean would meet in Kuala Lumpur to wrap up the FTA with another economic power in the region after entering into a similar agreement with China.

The group is also expected to wrap up FTA negotiations with India.

The trade chief said the prospective Asean-Korea Free Trade Area (Akfta) included a framework agreement on a comprehensive economic cooperation; a trade in goods agreement, and an agreement on a mechanism for dispute settlement.

Favila said the agreement on trade would include a set of rules of origin which would be negotiated next year and expected to be enforced by mid-2006.

In trade pacts, the rules of origin determine which products are to be covered by an agreement.

Also, Favila said the framework pact was necessary because the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Asean and South Korea covers not only merchandise but also services and investments.

"The framework commits the parties to liberalize their services and investment sectors to one another and commits them to complete the negotiations on these by end-2006," he explained.

Favila said the TIG would cover some 28 percent of Philippine exports to Korea that were currently slapped duties.

"We stand to gain from the liberalization of trade with Korea," he said.

Further, the TIG allows the country—along with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand—to have accelerated access to the South Korean market.

The other Asean members are Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar.

The Akfta provides that by 2010, South Korea will remove all tariffs on 90-percent of their tariff lines while the six Asean countries will remove all tariffs on 85-percent of all tariff lines.

Favila said the Philippines has secured flexibility since Seoul gave the leeway for Manila to comply with its commitments to remove duties only by 2012 or two years later.

He said that with the agreement, the country also benefits with its ability to increase export in services and at the same time increase investment performance as it encourages more South Korea capital to come in the country.

"As we protect their capital, we expect more Korean investments to come in, particularly in shipbuilding and power, sectors which our investment promotions are focusing on," Favila said.

MWSS names adviser

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN WATERworks and Sewerage System picked ABN-Amro as financial adviser for the selection of the company that will take over the management of Manila's west concession from Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Ranking officials of MWSS and Maynilad confirmed this saying a recommendation had already been filed with Branch 90 of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

"If approved by the court, Dutch financing firm ABN-Amro will draft the terms of reference for the bidding rules and determine whether the new company will just resume the remaining life of Maynilad's the concession," the source said.

Since the court approved Maynilad's rehabilitation plan, the concession has attracted the interest of investors willing to acquire the debt-ridden firm. Among those that expressed interest were DMCI Holdings Inc. and a consortium led by the ING Barings Group.

The water utility serves more than eight million customers in the west zone covering Manila and neighboring cities.

The ING-led consortium include the Ayala group and International Finance Corp., the World Bank's private investment arm.

Manila Water Co. Inc., a subsidiary of the Ayala group, manages the east zone water distribution concession.

WTO: Boon or bane for RP fishers?

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, fisheries are not part of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). It is grouped with industrial products, such as cement and ceramics, in an agreement called Non-Agricultural Market Access (Nama). Because of this, it is the trade and industry secretary, not the agriculture secretary, who led WTO fishery negotiations in the past.

Many fisher leaders believe that the disadvantageous trade deals they have gotten so far are largely due to the fact that some of the previous trade secretaries did a less than optimal job for the sector. We have met Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila and we are convinced this will not happen again. Favila, together with the agriculture secretary and fisher leaders, will fight for a fair deal. Nevertheless, the fishery sector should continue its vigilance, lest the coming WTO negotiations become a bane rather than a boon for Philippine fishers.

An endangered model

Ka Jun Paraiso Jr., a fisher leader from the island of Zaragosa in Badian, Cebu, has lately been having sleepless nights. For the last 10 years, he and his fellow fishers have been successfully implementing the Community Based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM) program, which makes the local fishery resources sustainable. He is worried that the WTO negotiations on Dec. 13-18 in Hong Kong will deprive their fishers of protection from unfairly subsidized fishery imports, worsen over-fishing and harm the environment.

Paraiso and his fisher leaders have achieved significant gains using the CBCRM approach. They lobbied and gained representation in the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Recourse Management Council, a legally mandated government-private sector body to help in fishery governance.

They secured a 5-percent yearly allocation from the municipal budget for fishery law enforcement. This helped curbed illegal and dynamite fishing. They undertook fishery management training which, among others, enabled them to conduct fish catch monitoring. This showed them how to enhance the growth of local fish stocks and determine the appropriate gears to prevent over fishing. Because of this they brought back many fish species, they processed the additional catch and now sell fish sauce and dried fish that significantly supplements their meager income.

Paraiso believes that trade is beneficial only if it is fair. At present, there is no level playing field in fisheries, which is found to be the poorest sector in the Philippines today.

Compared to practically no subsidy for Philippine municipal fishers, some $14 to $20 billion is being given in subsidies to fishers in nations such as the United States, the European Union, Japan and Taiwan. These distorted trade and resulted in over fishing in the world's oceans and pouching in the waters of Southeast Asian nations. Our municipal fishers cannot compete against unfairly subsidized imports. Not satisfied with this, several developed nations want WTO to impose further tariff reductions on our fishery sector.

Adding insult to injury, they want the Philippines to commit to maximum (or bound) tariff levels for fishery products. It is critical that we maintain our flexibility in deciding our own tariff levels. This is our only recourse to ensure fair trade in the light of the highly subsidized levels of other countries.

To make matters worse, these countries want us to bind our tariffs at a maximum of double our current levels. Considering that our previous government negotiators, without adequately consulting our fisher leaders, decided on the extremely low level of 10 percent for many of our fishery products, this would mean a maximum rate of 20 percent. This will be a big mistake, since some products of other countries today have more than 100 percent tariff levels.

Conclusion

The threat of unfair trade arrangements that may be agreed upon in the coming WTO negotiations to Paraiso's fisher community in Badian is similar to that in other parts of Southeast Asia. The Philippines should therefore rally Southeast Asian countries facing a similar threat to adopt three negotiating fishery positions: No imposed tariff reductions unless other countries' subsidies are appropriately decreased; no bound tariff rates for fisheries to protect our farmers and preserve ecological balance, and should bound tariffs be imposed for exceptional products, no to the formula of doubling our current tariff levels because we decided on applying too low tariffs in the first place. We are fortunate that a convener of Alyansa Agrikultura and Kilusang Mangingisda , Arsenio Tanchuling, was elected overall coordinator of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Network for Justice (SEAFish-J), an alliance of 14 fisher organizations across Southeast Asia.

He will lead a contingent of more than 150 fisher leaders who are organizing a SEAFish-J sponsored fluvial parade in the Hong Kong Harbor to dramatize the plight of small fishers like Paraiso. If you wish to help in this area, contact Tanchuling at 09209244302.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax 8516635).

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Growth Fund - Peso	1.12095	1.13180
Bond Fund - US Dollar	$1.2002	$1.1879

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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	Nov. 28, 2005	Nov. 21, 2005
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Balanced Fund	1.072389	1.069835
Equity Fund	1.058231	1.061147

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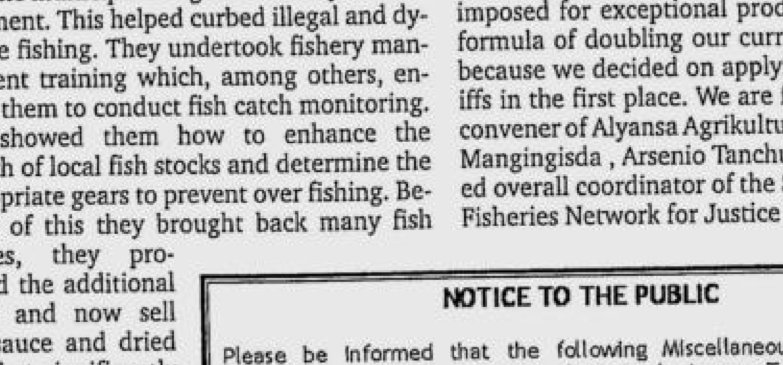
Celebrate your Christmas with Van Heusen



Timeless elegance, colors checkered and stripes dominates this year's celebration of the holiday with Van Heusen.
Classic, yes, but with a new way of thinking, men's favorite clothes are designed along clean lines with surprising details and "urban" sensitivity.
The palette of colors is coherent with the sophisticated and understated luxury which has always been Van Heusen's trademark.
To complement the season, the latest offering from Van Heusen is a range of shirts in exciting colors - The campaign, "SHIRTS FOR MEN" as the name suggest, showcases bold colors like Maroon, Pink, Orange, Yellow. This well-constructed and practical collection is inspired by the festive revelry of Christmas. This colorful range priced starting Php 990

Van Heusen also introduces the latest innovation in dress shirt. The TRUE-TECH shirts with non-iron technology. It has a revolutionary vapor phase technology with advanced micro-fibers combined with fabric engineering and a DP rating of 4 which gives you the 100% non-iron performance that is permanent. It also has a high level of moisture absorbency and breathability for the ultimate in comfort. Just wash, dry on a hanger and it's ready to wear. This high end shirt is priced at Php 1990

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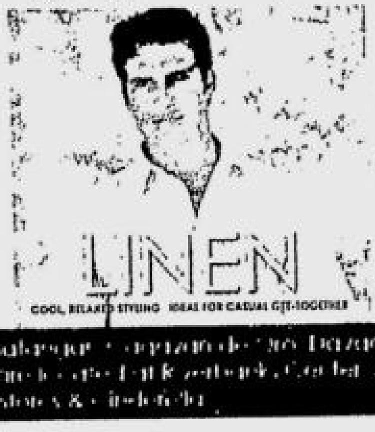
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Also seen in Van Heusen stores is a great collection of linen shirts in pastel tones makes a classic statement. This collection of short shirts is best suited for hanging out with friends. Subtle embroidery detailing on the shirts is inspired from the classic Filipino Barong. Linen shirts are available at great prices starting Php 1290

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2. The AFP-RSBS now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for Construction of the RSCCI Main Clubhouse, consisting of three (3) contiguous buildings: a Sports Club, a Health Club and a Pavilion situated at By-pass Road, Aguinaldo Hi-way in Silang, Cavite. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs **on or before 5:00 P.M. of 08 December 2005 at CMA-C RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **22 December 2005 at 9:05 A.M.** at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on or before 9:00 A.M. of 22 December 2005.**
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the AFP-RSBS and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 20,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on 28 December 2005.
7. The AFP-RSBS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders **on 27 January 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below **on or before 08 February 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit and in an amount of **Two Million Two Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Twenty Two and 72/100 Philippine Pesos (Php 2,233,022.72)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be **on 08 February 2006 at 2:05 P.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on 08 February 2006.
9. The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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0920-9064273

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Myrna G. Mata was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc #346, page #105, Bk #XIV, Series 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Carlito V. Sembrano of Q.C. (PDI-Nov. 18,25 Dec. 2, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late Gaudencia S. Aquino was extrajudicially settled by his widow and his children executed last November 18, 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Azucena E. Lozada who recorded the same in her noterial register as Doc. No.413 Page No.84 Book No.IV Series 2005.
PDI-Nov.25, Doc.2&9, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LOURDES PEREZ-DEL ROSARIO has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc #207, Page 42, Book 38, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Marietta S. Rivera-Gesta of Marikina City.
(PDI-Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given of St. Peter Life Plan OR No. 113135-50 lost on 11/24/05.

Notice is hereby given that Wack' Golf & Country Club Stock Cert. No. 675, Serial #1494 issued to Fortunato P. Aguas has been misplaced & cannot be located. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. (PDI- Dec. 2, 9, & 16 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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afp retirement and separation benefits system
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 911-4071 to 80

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Procurement of Security Services for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and/or Security Services for the Riviera Project in Silang, Cavite

1. The **AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM (AFP-RSBS)**, through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the Governing Board intends to apply the sum of **Two Million One Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Philippine Pesos (Php 2,177,700.00)** for the procurement of **Security Services for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision located in Sta. Rosa, Laguna,** and **Four Million Five Hundred Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and 28/100 Philippine Pesos (Php 4,502,753.28)** for the procurement of **Security Services for the Riviera Project located in Silang, Cavite,** being the Approved Budgets for the Contracts (ABC) to payments under the contracts for Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **AFP-RSBS** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Procurement of Security Services for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna** and/or **for the Riviera Project in Silang, Cavite.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **AFP-RSBS** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders on **15 December 2005** from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Three Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 3,000.00)** for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision and **Five Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 5,000.00)** for the Riviera Project. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP-RSBS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties **on 05 January 2006 at 2:00pm at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below **on or before 9:00am of 17 January 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, check or bank guarantee and in the amount specified in the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be **on 17 January 2006 at 9:05am at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the following address:

   Bids and Awards Committee
   AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
   Tel Nos. 9114071 local 266/289/240
10. The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN C ACOSTA
Vice Chairman
Bids and Awards Commitee

(PDI - Nov. 25 & Dec. 2, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS AND CLEAN-UP" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : **December 14, 2005**, 2:00 PM, Solarium, Ground Floor, Bldg.-1, NPC Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
	SCHEDULE I	
1	One (1) lot of Unserviceable, Used, Junk and Discarded Items consisting of Scrap Metals, Guy Wires (9-reels and loose bundles), Air-Con units, junk motor vehicles, Automotive Parts, T/L hardware, empty gas cylinders, used pipes, sole-plates, steel windows, steel skid, and discarded General Plant and Office Equipment. Located at Amlan TransCo Substation, Brgy. Tandayag, Amlan Town, Negros Oriental Province.	P 270,000.00 Per Lot
2	One (1) lot of Unserviceable, Used, and Scrap Items like Over-Head Ground wires, empty reels, empty drums, transmission line materials and Substation hardware, Junk General Plant and Office Equipment, engines and roofing materials. Located at Daraga TransCo Substation, Daraga Town, Albay Province.	P 495,000.00 Per Lot
	SCHEDULE II	
1	One (1) lot of Unserviceable Chemicals: Barite (Barium Sulfate), 8,010 bags (100 lbs/bag). Stored at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant Complex, Tiwi, Albay Province	P 456,364.30 Per Lot

The official bid forms will be issued to all interested parties upon presentation of a valid Identification Card with picture (such as Company ID, Driver's License, Passport, etc.), valid Income Tax Return (latest) of the bidder, Tax Clearance Certificate of the bidder (BIR Form 17.14B) valid up to the date of public bidding and payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Fifty Pesos (P550.00) for each set of Bid Form/Schedule. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 p.m. of December 13, 2005.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH AND/OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL PRICE OFFER.
2. 2004 INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER, ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY.
3. VALID TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER (BIR FORM 17.14B)

For further inquiries, interested parties may see or call Mr. ALFONSO D. ALDAY, Manager, WITAD Division at MMD, NPC Head Office, Quezon Avenue Corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, with telephone number 924-5384.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Dec. 2, 3 & 4, 2005)

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Manila Memorial Park
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CREMATION SERVICES
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OBITUARIES

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FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
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Message of Thanks

For Visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.

From the family of the late

Meynardo "Dadee" Gonzales

Who peacefully joined his Creator
on October 24, 2005.

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."

Luisa Yulo Tupaz

Peacefully joined the Lord and
*her loving husband **Querino Aguinaldo Tupaz***
on November 24, 2005 at the age of 77.

Her loving children **Gregory**, **Rommel**, **Alexander**, **Grace**, **Shirley** and **Arlene**; grandchildren **Mary Jane Christopher**, **Darlene**, **Jacqueline**, **Nathan**, **Aggie** and **Nigel**.

And other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Premier 1, Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be today, Friday, December 2, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at The Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

We, the family of the late

BIENVENIDO "RENE" R. GOMEZ

Fondly remember him on the
Seventh Year since he joined
our Heavenly Father

Holy Masses will be offered today, Friday, 02 December 2005 at the following churches:

• Saint Francis of Assisi Church *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 a.m.
• Christ the King Church *Green Meadows, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
• Santuario de San Jose Church *Greenhills, San Juan*	6:15 a.m.
• Santuario de San Antonio Church *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:15 a.m.
• San Agustin Church *Palatiw, Pasig City*	6:00 a.m.
• Sta. Rosa de Lima Church *Bagong Ilog, Pasig City*	6:00 a.m.
• Holy Family Church *Bo. Capitolyo, Pasig City*	6:00 a.m.
• St. John the Baptist Church *Taytay, Rizal*	6:00 a.m.
• Sta. Clara de Monte Falcon Church *Caniogan, Pasig City*	6:00 a.m.
• Virgin of Good Voyage Church *Antipolo, Rizal*	6:00 p.m.
• Immaculate Concepcion Church *Pasig City*	12:00 Noon 6:30 p.m.

"The Lord will open to them the gate of paradise,
they will return to the homeland
where there is no death,
but only lasting joy."

With deepest sorrow,
We announce the passing of our
FOUNDER and
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

JOSE "TAY JOE" M. TAJANLANGIT

on November 29, 2005

His remains will lie in state at the St. Peter's Chapel Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on **Sunday, December 4, 2005** at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 AM Mass.

He will be deeply missed by all of us at **Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc., Kauswagan Bank, Inc. and Kauswagan Management and Development Corporation.**

JUSTICE MAXIMO A. MACEREN (Ret.)

*Joined his Creator and his beloved spouse **Zenaida***
on November 30, 2005.

His loving children **Anna & Boy Benipayo**, **Mario & Joy**, **Jay & Charo**, **Tim & Tina**, **Bella & Chuck Barreiro**, **Louie & Portia**; his grandchildren **Mika**, **Mara**, **Carlo**, **Camille**, **Mark**, **Mia**, **Gelo**, **Paolo**, **Colleen**, **Ivan**, **Michael**, **Monique**; and sisters, **Sr. Angeles FMM**, **Guadalupe & Alice**; in-laws and relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Premiere 1, Loyola Memorial Chapel & Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on December 4, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the Holy Mass at 10:00 a.m.

LAUREANA DELOS SANTOS TUPAZ

of Batan, Aklan and Pasig City

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 30, 2005 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved family, husband **Dominador M. Tupaz, Sr.**; children: **Carmen**, **Veekee** & **Herman**, **Jun** & **Nila**, **Cynthia** & **Boy**, **Jerome** & **Edith**, **Cyril** & **Marlyn** and **Rowena** & **Otto**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; brothers and sisters; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Riverside Village Mortuary and Chapel, 3rd Street, Riverside Village, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

"Time is the only comforter for the loss of a mother."
--Jane Welsh Carlyle

In memoriam

Clotilde del Fierro-de la Vega

Born to eternal life on 02 December 1999

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me.
They have clung to me all my life.
-- Abraham Lincoln

" Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come..."
Psalm 23:6

DRA. LUZ DOMINGUEZ – SARINO

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on November 29, 2005 at the age of 84.

Her loving husband **Ruben Sarino**; children **Ruby and Mark, Salas, Carmelita** and **Virgilio Ramiscal, Ruben Albert** and **Ria Sarino, Alfred Sarino** (+), together with her grandchildren, relatives and friends request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Bahay Ugnayan – Samson Vigil Spaces, 145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at Imus Cemetery, Tahimik St., Imus, Cavite after the 2:00 pm. Holy Mass at Imus Cathedral.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Rules on derivatives handling eased

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has relaxed its licensing rules on banks with existing authority to accept government deposits and handle complex derivatives products.

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. told reporters the policy-making Monetary Board had agreed to simplify the process by which banks could maintain their authority to undertake these two functions.

In the past, the banks were required to go to the BSP yearly to renew their licenses. They had to prove they were in compliance with the requirements under existing guidelines.

"The MB has adopted a policy of making it a continuing authority, unless there's a finding that the bank is no longer compliant with the requirements to handle expanded derivatives and accept government deposits," Espenilla said.

Derivatives refers to sophisticated financial instruments whose values are based on the underlying value of a good or index.

"It's a relaxation—for operational efficiency so banks can plan ahead better and on the part of BSP, it reduces the operational burden," Espenilla said.

"The authority will continue unless there's a finding that they can no longer qualify, and we usually find out during the next onsite examination," he said.

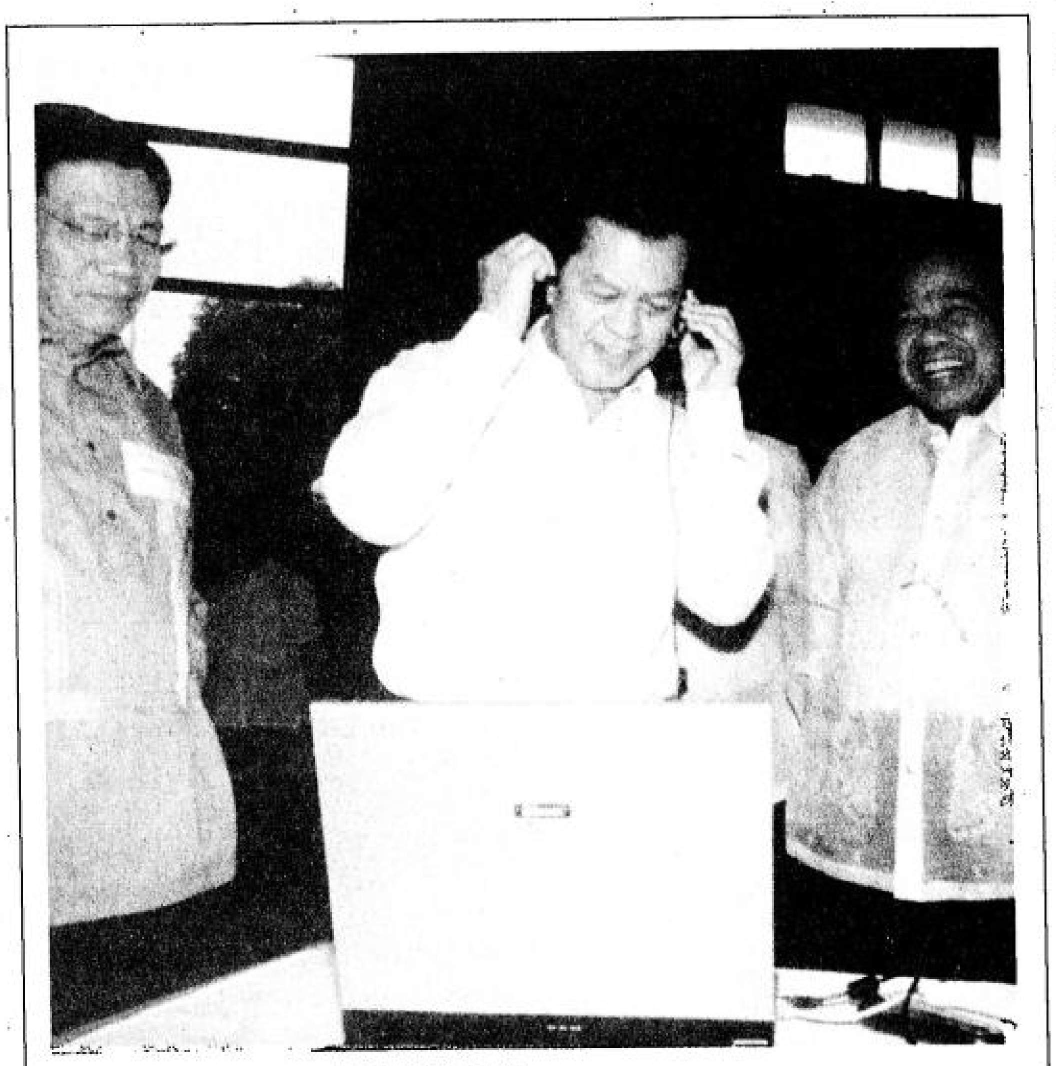
The relaxation, however, would cover only banks with existing license which are being subjected to the same framework each year. New applications will be processed using the old system.

"The content of licensing is another matter," he said.

The use of foreign exchange derivatives in the Philippines has surged over the past three years but volume remained very thin compared to the rest of the Asian region.

When the Asian currency crisis erupted in 1997, local bankers predicted that the use of derivatives would flourish as the currency devaluation heightened the need to hedge against foreign exchange risks.

But the latest volume indicated that the forex derivatives market in the country was still in the neophyte stage.



NOLI TRIES FIVE9 TECHNOLOGY

Vice president Noli de Castro makes a live call to Five9 vice president for international sales Liza Navarette in Pleasanton, California using the Five9 Virtual Contact Center (VCC) during the opening ceremonies of the Jobs Generation Summit. The summit, held Nov. 25 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City, was jointly organized by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Presidential Management Staff. With the Vice President are Ecop president Rene Soriano (left) and Ecop chair Miguel Varela (right). Five9 VCC is a revolutionary technology that allows small companies to start a call center with capital of as low as P350,000.

Kuok sells KPPI stake

REAL-ESTATE FIRM KUOK Philippine Properties Inc. yesterday said it would sell its 60-percent interest in a property firm to Atea Tierra, a company "indirectly owned" by San Miguel Corp. president Ramon S. Ang.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Kuok said it had agreed to sell its interests in KPPI Land Corp. in exchange for the assumption of its loan by Atea Tierra.

Kuok's outstanding loan with Rhinestone Limited was placed at P3.62 billion or $66.3 million.

Aside from its 60-percent stake, Kuok also said its interests in KPPI Land included P3.9 billion worth of advances and deposits.

KPPI Land is 40-percent owned by Malaysian property development firm Pelangi Berhad.

KPPI Land owns 946 hectares of land in Carmona and Silang in Cavite province. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Asean looks into feasibility of regional gas pipeline project

By Abigail L. Ho

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have intensified efforts to determine the feasibility of various segments of the Trans-Asean Gas Pipeline (TAGP), including one connecting Brunei and Palawan.

In a briefing at the 8th Asean Council on Petroleum (Ascope) conference and exhibition Wednesday evening, Philippine National Oil Co. president Eduardo Mañalac said the Malaysia-led TAGP Task Force had agreed to determine the economic viability of the pipeline's different segments.

He said the volume of gas to be transported via the pipeline network would likewise be studied.

As for the Brunei-Philippine leg, he said the group would have to determine how economically feasible it would be to undertake it.

In an earlier interview, PNOC senior vice president Rolando Rodriguez said more than $3 billion would be needed to connect the Philippines to other gas reserves in the Asean region via a gas pipeline linking the Malampaya gas find in Palawan to another gas field in Brunei.

But this was just an estimate, he said, as the only concrete basis for this amount was the cost entailed in establishing the existing gas pipeline connecting the Malampaya gas find to the natural gas-fired power plants in Batangas.

For a pipeline that was around 500 kilometers long, he said around $1.5 billion was spent several years ago.

The planned Brunei-Palawan pipeline should be around 1,000 km long. Using the cost of the Palawan-Batangas pipeline as a benchmark, he said the cost of building the Brunei-Palawan pipeline should hit about $3 billion.

Private investments boost housing program

HOME GUARANTY CORP. (HGC) said private sector investments continued to fuel the momentum of the government's housing program, with the agency's guarantee business posting some 37 percent growth in the past four years.

HGC president Gonzalo Bongolan said HGC's guarantee business hit P39.19 billion in June this year, much more than the P28.51 billion registered in the same month five years ago. The amount represents an equivalent volume of government-guaranteed loans to and investments in the housing sector.

The growth of enrollments for guaranty, he said, indicated the steady confidence of the private sector in the government's housing initiatives. Prior to posting steady gains since 2001, HGC registered a continuing decline in enrollments by an average of 7 percent yearly from 1997 to 2000.

The value of new enrollments in the guaranty fund grew by almost 93 percent from 2001 to June of this year compared to the levels from 1997 to 2000, he pointed out. Average annual enrollment from 2001 to this year was placed at P15 billion, up from P9.63 billion yearly from 1997 to 2000.

Bongolan said the sustained private sector confidence level was further boosted by directions from Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair and Vice President Noli L. De Castro to beef up HGC's capacity to answer guaranty calls.

RATE program hobbled . . .

From page B1

ministration's fiscal program.

Under the scheme, tax lawyers and government prosecutors use a method known as forensic accounting, as well as tips from informants, to build cases against suspected tax evaders.

For a while, RATE was the toast of the town and the scourge of tax cheats. Under his watch, the government filed complaints against popular actors and actresses, Chinese businessmen, and even Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, who is closely identified with the President.

In the course of their work, Bonoan and other members of the RATE team inevitably began stepping on the toes of the powerful and well connected.

In an interview before he tendered his resignation, Bonoan conceded that there were instances when he was asked to pull his punches or drop tax cases entirely—by whom, he would not say.

A close associate of the Finance undersecretary, however, admits that "requests" to drop tax evasion cases were par for the course, especially when they went after the proverbial "big fish."

"Usually, the 'pakiusap' would be made through our bosses," said Kim Henares, who worked with Bonoan in preparing tax evasion charges. "As for us, we just did our jobs and waited for our bosses to give the go signal."

Henares, who resigned as Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) earlier this month, said that frustration was part of the job, especially when trying to build a case against influential suspects.

Despite this, she said Bonoan was "very passionate" about his pet project.

"He was really the one who jumpstarted the [RATE] project," Henares said. "Before that, there were no high profile tax evasion cases being filed."

As long as the mailed fist approach was in effect, tax evasion declined, as evidenced by rising revenues among regional tax collectors immediately after RATE was launched.

Bonoan's departure—along with changes in President Arroyo's economic team in the wake of the resignation of Purisima and Hyatt 10—has Henares worried.

"It's different when you're working under bosses who have clear directions and guidelines," she said, describing the frustration of so-called 'reformists' in the finance department. "There is a marked difference with working for [former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N.] Camacho and Purisima."

"They are young and aggressive, so you definitely want to work for them," she said.

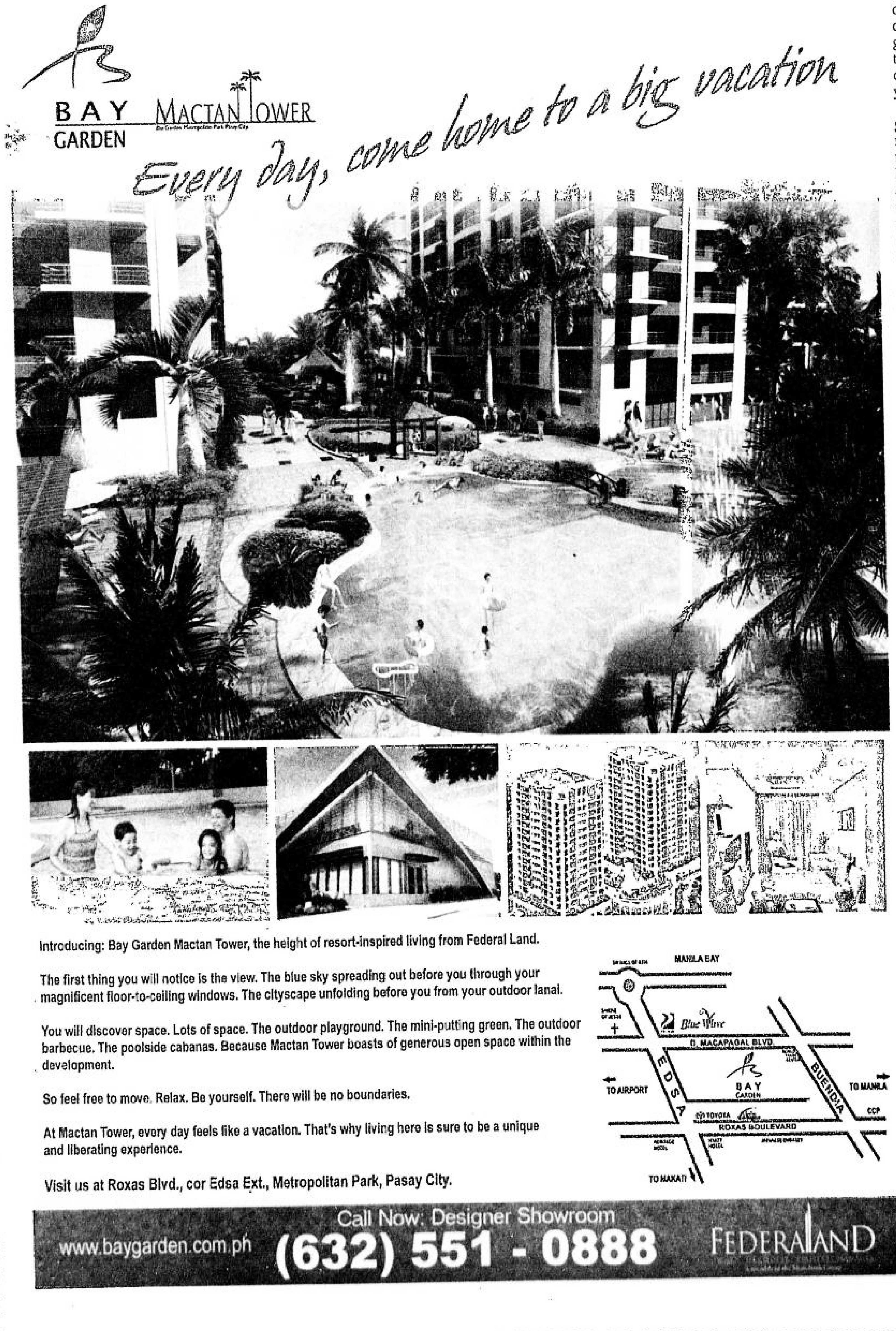
Beyond the anti-tax evasion drive, Bonoan also played a crucial role in setting the fiscal program on the path to recovery, being the finance department's policy-making mainstay for the Value-Added Tax (LAW) law.

House Ways and Means committee chair Rep. Jesli A. Lapus recalls that Bonoan was the man always sent by the Executive branch to convince skeptical lawmakers about the need for a new—and widely unpopular—tax levy.

For now, however, Bonoan just wants to enjoy a normal Christmas with his wife and two-year old daughter.

"It would be good to be able to relax again, and earn some decent money," he said.

Indeed, as Bonoan's life returns to normal, so will things return to normal at the tax and customs bureaus, many people fear.



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Messages

MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LAGUNA Technopark Inc. on the occasion of its 15th year anniversary.

The concept of industrial and technology-focused zones is by now well-known. Their mission is to create investor-friendly enclaves that will stimulate on-the-ground investment in productive capacity, and in so doing drive economic growth and employment. I am proud to say that LTI has played a leading role in all these areas, persevering in improving its productive capacity through all the political and economic challenges that have faced the country since LTI's inception in 1990. That it has done so is a fitting tribute not just to the resiliency of the Filipino, but also to the dedication and vision of all those who have contributed to LTI's evolution and development.

To the people of LTI, my best wishes for your continued success and prosperity.

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President,
Republic of the Philippines

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAGUNA TECHNOPARK Inc. on your 15th year anniversary.

Since its inception in 1990 as one of the first privately-owned industrial estates in the country, LTI has amassed an enviable track record in terms of its contribution to overall economic growth. What is perhaps less-known is how LTI has contributed to the development of many large urban centers in the Calabarzon area, by acting as a catalyst for the growth of many supporting industries. The progress made in Sta. Rosa, for example, has led to it being tagged as the Philippines' version of Detroit, because of the preponderance and significance of not just the automotive manufacturing industry but also all the related sectors that build up a sustainable industrial ecosystem, such as parts manufacturers, mechanical trainers, etc. In addition to all those, it's particularly noteworthy that LTI has been elevated to the Hall of Fame of PEZA for winning its Outstanding Community Project award for three years running.

We at PEZA are tasked to contribute to the accelerated creation of employment and other economic opportunities, particularly in the countryside, and to spur the growth and diversification of exports, by encouraging and supporting investments in the development and operation of viable, world class and environment friendly economic zones. We look forward to more fruitful years of partnership with LTI.

LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General,
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

PHASE 2

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, LAGUNA TECHNOPARK WAS born out of Ayala Land's desire to heed the national government's call for the private sector to become more involved in the economic development of the country. We were joined by two Japanese companies, both proven friends of the Philippines, Mitsubishi Corporation and Kawasaki Steel Corporation (now JFE Steel Corporation).

A decade and a half later, LTI has become the top performer among ecozones, amassing 24% of all export values generated by all such zones. Remarkably, LTI has sustained that performance at increasing levels of productivity. Over the last 3 years LTI has grown exports at an average of close to 16%, far above the growth rates of both public and other private ecozones. This was achieved with a much lower growth rate in imports of just 3%, and a growth rate in employment that is on par with that of other ecozones, indicating not just increasing productivity but also growth in diversity of production. With over half of the locators belonging to either the automotive or semiconductor industries, Laguna Technopark is well-positioned at both ends of the industrial spectrum to be able to leverage growth opportunities.

As important as the performance has been, the continued satisfaction of our locators has been even more gratifying. Eighty-six percent of our locators rated it as better than other industrial parks, with 88% of them mentioning its infrastructure and physical characteristics as items they particularly like about the park.

We thank our various constituents for helping us get to this point... our shareholders, our regulators particularly the PEZA, the communities and LGUs of Sta. Rosa, Biñan and the province of Laguna, our valued locators whose achievements we are only too happy to facilitate, and finally our hard working and loyal employees.

VINCENT Y. TAN
Chairman,
Laguna Technopark, Inc.

OVER THE YEARS LTI'S PERFORMANCE AS AN engine of growth has been well-documented. Equally important has been its leadership in community engagement, resulting in the growth and development of key centers in the Calabarzon area. That synergy of private investment, economic growth and local development has been the driving force behind all we have done at LTI, and the results thus far have been impressive.

The challenge ahead of us now is to take performance across all these disparate areas - park operations, supporting locator performance, and community engagement - to the next level. Only by so doing that we will be able to address the growing needs, not just of our locators, but of the many stakeholders who are affected by, and rely on, LTI. We are confident that LTI will rise to these challenges, in the manner that it has so successfully done in the past.

LTI's great achievements would not have been possible without the support of certain groups which I would like to thank on the occasion of LTI's 15th anniversary: the communities of Sta. Rosa and Biñan and the province of Laguna, our friends at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and our joint venture partners, Mitsubishi Corporation and JFE Steel Corporation. Finally, the success of Laguna Technopark is most tied to our collaboration with the more than 100 companies that have become our partner locators in the past 15 years. We thank you, and we look forward to continuing to help each other grow in the years to come..

MA. VICTORIA E. AÑONUEVO
President,
Laguna Technopark, Inc.

LTI
Laguna Technopark Inc.

A joint undertaking among:
Ayala Land, Inc.
Mitsubishi Corporation
JFE Steel Corporation

15 years of Commitment to Excellence

Redefining standards in industrial development

- Laguna Technopark was formed in 1989 in response to government's call for private sector participation in countryside development.

- Laguna Technopark is one of the first privately-owned industrial estates in the Philippines.

- Initial venture straddling the towns of Sta. Rosa and Biñan has grown from 224 hectares to 400 hectares. Of the 400 hectares, 300 hectares has been proclaimed by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) as special zones to provide locator companies various incentives.

Manufacturer's haven

- **Central Location**

The Laguna Technopark facilities in Sta. Rosa and Biñan are easily accessible: 47 kilometers from Ninoy Aquino International Airport; 50 kilometers from the North Harbor International Seaport; and 44 kilometers from Makati, the country's premier business district.

- **Excellent Facilities**

High quality infrastructure with highway-grade roads, digital telecommunication facilities, high voltage power facilities, a centralized sewerage system and waste water treatment facility, and an ample supply of industrial and potable water.

Efficient support amenities that ensure high productivity and uninterrupted operations include an administrative center, banks, government representative offices including the PEZA and the Bureau of Customs, medical facilities, a multi-purpose social hall, security and fire stations and external and internal transport terminals.

- **Strong After Sales.**

Ayala Land's commitment to long-term presence in its development projects is strongly evident at the Laguna Technopark. This majority owner initiated the establishment of the Laguna Technopark Association, a self-governing entity mandated to serve and anticipate the needs of the locators. The Laguna Technopark Association counts as members all locator companies in the park. It was formed to ensure the long-term viability of the industrial estate.

- **Masterplanned Community.**

Laguna Technopark in Sta. Rosa and Biñan is part of a well-planned community. Across the Technopark are a series of residential villages including Santarosa Village, San Jose Village and Santarosa Estates. They are also complemented by educational and religious institutions in the vicinity and a commercial complex to serve the needs of a growing populace, many of whom are employees of Technopark locators.

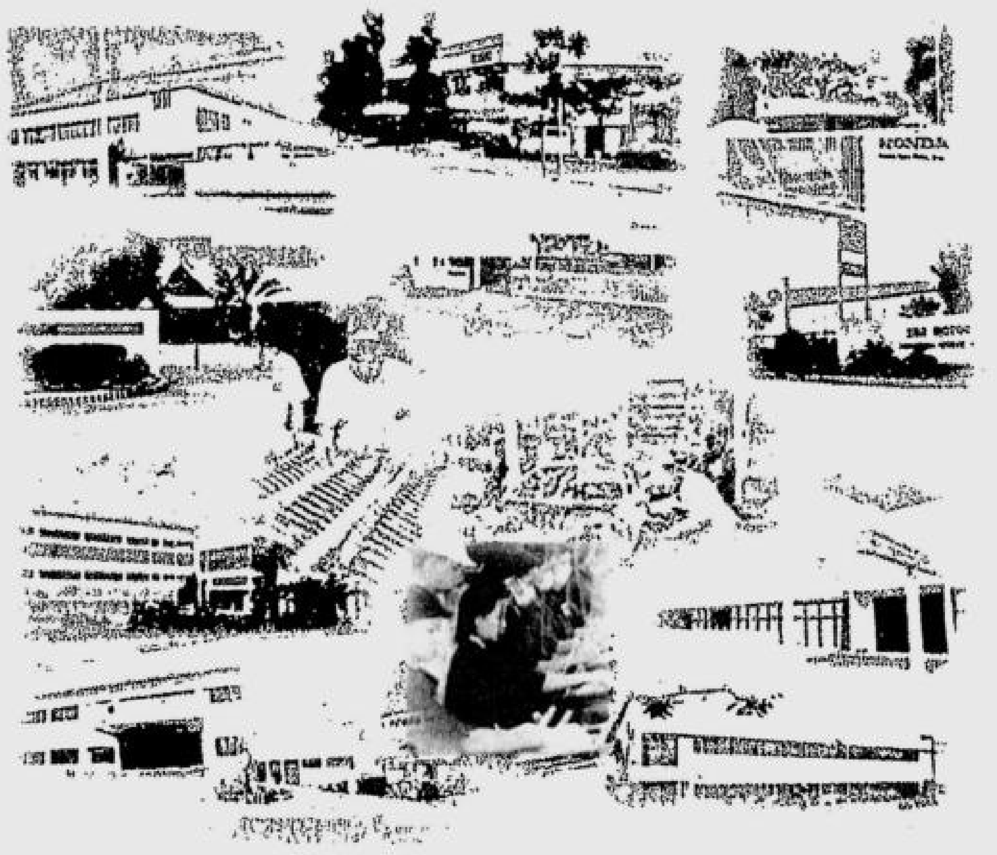
Most sought after industrial park

- Laguna Technopark remains to be a top performer among the privately-owned and government-owned ecozones in the country. In the latest economic performance indicators released by PEZA covering the year 2004, Laguna Technopark remains to be the only private ecozone which has generated the highest employment rate and continues to be the biggest exporter in both privately-owned and government-owned ecozones at USD 7.491 Billion.

- LTI has also been elevated to the Hall of Fame by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) last March 11, 2004 for winning the outstanding community project awards for three (3) years, i.e., 2000, 2002 and 2003. Various programs are being undertaken yearly in order to strengthen our harmonious relationship with the community.

Global Neighborhood

- Progressive local and global industries engaged in a wide range of enterprises, from automobile assembly, precision and leading edge electronics including integrated circuit assembly and hard drive manufacturing, home appliances, pharmaceuticals to food processing have chosen to locate their usinesses at Laguna Technopark.Most sought a



List of Locators
As of October 2005

A.R.T. Druck, Inc.
Acestar International Service Corporation
Alcos Global Corporation
Amkor Technology Philippines, Inc.
Anaconda Metal Fastener, Inc
ASALUS Corporation Health Clinic
Ayala Corporation Others
Bank of the Philippine Islands
Cayon Holdings, Inc
Cepuga, Inc
CCMC Land, Inc.
Cervantes/Pena Facility
Cirtek Electronics Corporation
Cornelian Industrial Property, Inc.
Daiho Philippines Corporation Others
Diageo Philippines, Inc
Electronic Assemblies, Inc.
Elin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Englewood Development Corporation
ESJ Properties
F.R.P. Philippines Corporation
FCC (Philippines) Corporation
F-Tech Phils. Manufacturing, Inc
Fujitsu Die-Tech Corp. of the Phils.
Fujitsu Ten Corp. of the Philippines (SEZ)
Furukawa Electric Autoparts Phils., Inc
Futaba Corporation of the Philippines
General Diesel Power Corporation
Glassworks Industries, Inc.
Golay Buchel Phils, Inc
Grand Capital Holdings, Inc.
GRM Ecozone Storage, Inc
Hankyu International Transport Philippines, Inc.
Henkel Philippines, Inc.
Hitachi Global Storage Technology Phils. Corp.
Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (SEZ)
Honda Parts Manufacturing Corporation
Hoya Glass Disk Phils., Inc
Ichinomiya Electronics Philippines Corporation
ILO Land, Inc
Imasen Philippine Manufacturing Corporation
INA Research Philippines, Inc.
Innorev Company, Inc
Integrated Microelectronics, Inc.
Interzone Industry Facilities Corporation
Isuzu Autoparts Manufacturing Corporation
Isuzu Philippines Corporation
JFE Shoji Steel Phils., Inc
Joy Mart Consolidated Corp.
Kanolec Philippines Corporation
Kawashima Textile Manufacturing Corp.
Keihin Philippines Corporation
Kintetsu World Express (Philippines), Inc.
Koho Sahara Electronics Philippines, Inc
Kuo Philippines, Inc
Kowa (Asia) Pacific Inc.
Laguna Auto Parts Manufacturing Corporation (SEZ)
Laguna Dai ichi, Inc
Laguna Electronics, Inc. - Plant 1
Laguna Electronics, Inc. - Plant 2
Laguna Metts Corporation
Laguna Saikei Corporation
Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation
Marina Sales Corporation
Mazda Philippines, Inc.
MAT Electronics, Inc.
MD Dustpark Manila, Inc.
Meiran Philippines, Inc
Middleby Philippines Corporation
MOL Logistic Philippines, Inc.
Monroku Philippines, Inc.
Nidec Philippines Corporation
Nidec Precision Philippines Corporation
Nikko Materials Phils. Inc.
Nippon Konpo Philippines, Inc.
Nissin Brake Philippines, Inc.
NQHE Manufacturing, Inc
NSG Micro Optics Philippines, Inc.
Ogino Philippines Corporation
Onnsworth Laguna, Inc.
Orient Goldcrest Realty, Inc.
Osato Bio-Industry
Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corp. (SEZ)
Panasonic Mobile Communication Corp. of the Phils. (SEZ)
Panorama Property Ventures, Inc
Primer Star Land Corporation
Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation
Ryonan Electric Philippines Corporation
Sagawa Express Philippines, Inc.
Sanyo Plastic Philippines, Inc
Shin-Etsu Magnetics Philippines, Inc.
South Win, Inc. Warehousing
St. Gallen Manufacturing Others
Sta. Ana Properties Estates, Inc. Warehousing
Star Motor Manufacturing Industries, Inc. Automotive
Sun Ever Light Phils., Inc. Electronics
Sunmet Corporation Electronics
SunPower Philippines Manufacturing, Inc. Electronics
Sunec Philippines Corporation Electronics
Sycwin Coating & Wires, Inc. Others
Taisan Realty & Development Corporation Food
Takata Philippines Corporation (SEZ) Automotive
TDK Fujitsu Philippines Corporation Electronics
Technofreeze, Inc.
Technol Eight Philippines Corporation (SEZ)
Telstar Manufacturing Corp
Terumo (Phils) Corporation
TNT Express Worldwide Philippines, Inc.
Toshiba Information Equipment (Phils) Inc.
Toyota Boshoku Philippines Corp.
Trans World Trading Company, Inc.
TS Tech Philippines, Inc
TS Tech Trim Philippines, Inc.
Universal Motors Corporation
WB Manufacturing, Inc
Winsouth, Inc
Wintro International Trading Corporation
Yutaka Manufacturing (Phils) Inc.

SHOWN are (from left) Grace Andres, Al Abrillo, Richard Castro, Eric Caridad, Bobby Menpin, AG Okumura, Marivic Añonuevo, Akira Kaburaki, Dez Cruz, Alfred Opiniano, Rona Abian and Sara Campos

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighteen Pesos & 50/100 (Php 3,519,218.50) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Trucking/Hauling Services of estimated four hundred three thousand five hundred (403,500) bags of grains for transfer to the following destinations:

Lot	Source	Destination	Estimated Number of	ABC
1	SPGC	Cotabato City	15,750	300,037.50
2		Philtrade V	10,000	390,300.00
3		S. Aguak	25,000	202,000.00
4		Polloc Warehouses	13,000	511,160.00
5	COT. CITY	Philtrade V	9,450	23,625.00
6		Polloc Warehouse	6,300	24,696.00
7	Polloc Warehouses	Philtrade V	15,000	58,800.00
8		CIC	5,000	19,600.00
9		SPGC	20,000	786,400.00
10	S. Aguak	SPGC	20,000	161,600.00
11	Marawi City	Malabang	24,000	480,000.00
12	Basilan Wharf	GID Basilan	180,000	315,000.00
13	Sulu Wharf	GID Sulu	30,000	96,000.00
14	Tawi-Tawi Wharf	GID Tawi-Tawi	30,000	150,000.00
		Total	403,500	3,519,218.5.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Distribution of Eligibility & Bid documents	Dec. 2, 2005 – Dec. 29, 2005 @ 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, NFA RO XIV, Cotabato City
Deadline on submission of Letter of Intent	December 9, 2005 / 3:00 PM / NFA XIV, ORC, Cotabato City
Pre-Bidding Conference	December 16, 2005 / @ 9:00 AM / NFA RO XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 @ 8:30 AM, NFA XIV Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 / @ 9:00 AM, NFA XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the NFA Provincial Offices where the concerned Lots are located or from the BAC XIV Secretarial upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BAC XIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Asst Regional Director Ofelia M. Sero
ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28
Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) OFELIA M. SERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – November 18 & December 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Five million five hundred fifty eight thousand four hundred fourteen pesos (Php 5, 558,414.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Handling Services of estimated one million seven hundred fifty one thousand four hundred twenty five (1,751,425) bags of grains in the following NFA owned and leased warehouses:

Lot No.	Location	Estimated Volume to	ABC
1	GID Maganoy	160,073	484,719.00
2	R & B	58,810	178,680.00
3	RPA 1	221,389	673,167.00
4	RPA 2	53,035	159,105.00
5	RPA 3	85,392	256,176.00
6	RPA 4	40,791	122,373.00
7	Philtrade V	283,239	1,132,956.00
8	C I C	31,709	95,127.00
9	SPGC – GID	142,087	438,523.50
10	GID Marawi	212,075	636,225
11	Malabang	44,525	160,762.50
12	GID Basilan	309,000	927,000.00
13	GID Sulu	53,600	134,000.00
14	GID Tawi-Tawi	55,700	159,600
15	Total	1,751,425	5,558,414.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Distribution of Eligibility & Bid documents	Dec. 2, 2005 – Dec. 29, 2005 @ 8:00 AM to 5 PM NFA RO XIV, Cotabato City
Deadline on submission of Letter of Intent	December 9, 2005 / 3:00 PM / NFA XIV, ORC, Cotabato City
Pre-Bidding Conference	December 16, 2005 / @ 2:00 PM / NFA RO XIV, Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 / @ 1:30 PM / NFA XIV Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 / @ 2:00 PM, NFA XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the NFA Provincial Offices where the concerned Lots are located or from the BAC XIV Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BAC XIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Asst Regional Director Ofelia M. Sero
ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28
Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) OFELIA M. SERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Nov. 18 & Dec. 2, 2005)

National Power Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Imported Steaming Coal to Sual and Pagbilao CFTPP Batch I, CY2006

1. The National Power Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), inclusive of maximum loading tolerance.

Batch I Schedule-Plant	Volume, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php	Bidding Date, Venue and Time
1A-SCFTPP (Regular/Lot)	5 lots of 1x65,000 +/- 7%	284,846,400.00/Lot	Dec. 16, 2005 Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2A-PCFTPP (Performance/Lot)	5 lots of 1x65,000 +/- 10%	240,240,000.00/Lot	Dec. 16, 2005 Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2B-PCFTPP (Blending Low Sulfur/Lot)	5 Lots of 1x65,000 +/- 10%	228,228,000.00/Lot	Dec 16, 2005 Pahiyas - 9:30 AM

Note: This Batch I, Schedule cancels the previous invitation for the same supply published on October 27 & November 3, 2005

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, Organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 per mine source per schedule, either in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

5. Pre-Bid Conference shall be on December 6, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Pahiyas Function Room, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City.

6. Bidders are encouraged to submit Eligibility Documents on or before December 7, 2005 for evaluation and issuance of Class A certification

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned

9. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) and DBM (www.procurementservice.net.com) websites.

(Sgd) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
Sr. Vice-President and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov 25 & Dec 2, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PNOC

Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO. Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Acidizing Services for Wells in BGPF, LGPF, SNGPF, NNGP, MGPF, SLGP, and Tanawon
EDC 05-197

1. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the *Acidizing Services for Wells in BGPF, LGPF, SNGPF, NNGP, MGPF, SLGP, and Tanawon*, under project number *EDC 05-197*, having an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of PhP 358,400,000.00. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *PNOC-Energy Development Corporation* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from *December 2, 2005 to January 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.* and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00)*. The method of payment *in securing the bidding documents* will be *cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *PNOC-Energy Development Corporation* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *10:00 a.m. of December 16, 2005 at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.*
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin. Group Office Wall Clock Time) of January 12, 2006.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount as stated in the Instructions to Bidders. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be immediately after the deadline of submission of bids *the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *PNOC-Energy Development Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
c/o the Bids and Awards Committee
Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
(632) 893-6001
cag@energy.com.ph
(632) 840-1461
www.energy.com.ph

(Sgd.) FRANCIS M. DOLOR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Dec. 2, 2005)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **First Rizal Apparel Corporation** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an **Existing Export Producer of Garments** with a capacity of **1,000,000 pieces per year** and with project / plant site located at **Benita Cruz Bldg., Barrio Road, Tayuman, Binangonan Rizal.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Dec. 2, 2005)

FCMC 10872/2005

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 10872 OF 2005

BETWEEN
TEICHMULLER, BODO ARMIN Petitioner
and
VALDEZ, NANETTE R. Respondent

NOTICE

A Divorce Petition has been filed against the Respondent Valdez, Nanette R. in Hong Kong whose address in Philippines is unknown to the Petitioner, who may apply to the Family Court Registry at M2 Floor of Wanchai Tower, No.12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong for a copy of Petition. If within one month the said Respondent has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in her absence.

Registrar.

To be advertised as follows:-
Once in Philippine Daily Inquirer, an English newspaper published and circulating in Philippines.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES & OTHER RELATED WAREHOUSE HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The National Food Authority, Region V, Legazpi City invites qualified grains cargo handling service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of handling and other related warehouse handling services in the different NFA uitilized warehouses in Region V for the calendar year 2006 based on the following budget for the contract.

LOT	PROVINCE	AREA/LOCATION OF NFA WHSES.	EST. VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (bgs)	BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (Php)
Lot 1	Albay	Ligao City Libon	368,473 368,282	921,182.50 920,705.00
Lot 2	Cam. Norte	Lag-on, Daet	711,241	1,564,730.20
Lot 3	Catanduanes	Virac & Pandan	347,200	868,000.00
Lot 4	Masbate	Masbate City	472,452	1,015,771.80
Lot 5	Sorsogon	Cabid-an, Sorsogon City Bulan, Irosin & Gubat	588,757 75,000	1,295,265.40 165,000.00
Lot 6	Cam. Sur	Palestina, Pili Partido Iriga City Balintawak, Naga City Libmanan	1,346,793 263,627 229,817 318,803 162,320	3,097,623.90 606,342.10 528,579.10 733,246.90 373,336.00

The Schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of eligibility requirements & Bidding documents	Nov. 25 – Dec. 07, 2005	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
2. Pre Bid conference	Dec. 07, 2005 (Lots 1-6)	9:00 AM
3. Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Tender Forms	Dec. 20, 2005	
	Lot 1	9:00 AM
	Lot 2	10:00 AM
	Lot 3	11:00 AM
	Lot 4	2:00 PM
	Lot 5	3:00 PM
	Lot 6	4:00 PM
4. Opening of Eligibility requirements & Bid Tender Forms	Dec. 20, 2005 (immediately after submission)	

The venue for the pre-bidding conference and submission and opening of bids shall be at the Conference Room, NFA Regional Office, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

Funding Source will be the Corporate Operating Budget.

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents may be obtained from RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable / non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,000.00.

Other inquiries may be addressed to the RBAC Secretariat, NFA Region V, Legazpi City with telephone numbers (052) 480-7399 / 480-7015 / 480-7085 / 820-0018 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

It is required that the prospective bidders must have a single largest contract completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to be bid whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty (50%) percent of the ABC.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARRA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – November 26 & December 2, 2005)

NFA urges farmers to produce quality palay

THE NATIONAL Food Authority is advising farmers to produce high quality palay to command a premium price in the market. NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said that barring typhoons or heavy rains that may soak newly harvested palay, the mechanized threshing procedure make it relatively easy to come up with quality palay. To support the drying needs of farmers, the NFA is offering its drying facilities for a minimal amount. The food agency is maintaining 328 units of mechanical dryers across the country which farmer cooperatives may avail of. Farmers are encouraged to coordinate with the NFA office nearest them to avail of these facilities. NFA's field extension workers are also available to teach farmers the proper post production technology to improve the quality of their palay.

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BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(BOHECO I)
Brgy. Macaas, Tubigon, Bohol, Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PHILIPPINES
SEVILLA MINI-HYDRO PROJECT
COMPLETION OF 2.5 MW SEVILLA MINI-HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
Loan/Credit No. 7204-PH
Contract/Bid No. 001

The Development Bank of the Philippines has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Rural Power Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the contract for the **Completion of Remaining Civil Works of 2.5 MW Sevilla Mini-hydroelectric Project, Contract No. S1-05-00.** The Bohol I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO I) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Furnishing of Labor, Materials and Equipment necessary for the Construction of Intake and Penstock Reinforced Concrete Structure and Power Plant Building and Its Accessories.** The construction period is **210 days.**

Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the **Bohol I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO I)** and inspect the bidding documents at the address (1) below from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address (1) below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00) or in US Dollar equivalent.** The method of payment will be via cashier's check or in cash to **BOHECO I DBP TAGB. Account No. 0055117800.** The document can be pick-up directly from the address (1) and (2) below

Bids must be delivered to the **address (2) below on or before 2:00 p.m., January 31, 2006.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **Two and One Half Percent (2.5%) of the Bid Price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address (2) below at 2:05 p.m., January 31, 2006.

(1) Development Bank of the Philippines
Engr. Paul Eric del Rosario, Manager-Program Management I-DBS
Head Office: Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. corner Makati Avenue, Makati City
P.O. Box 1996, Makati Central Post Office 1200, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: (+632) 840-34-35, (+632) 818-9511 to 19 loc. 2529/2543/2520
Fax No.: (+632) 893-5380

(2) Bohol I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO I)
Engr. Carlos B. Itable, General Manager
Barangay Macaas, Tubigon, Bohol, Philippines
Zip Code: 6329
Tel. Nos.: (+6338) 508-0084 to 85
Fax No.: (+6338) 508-8005

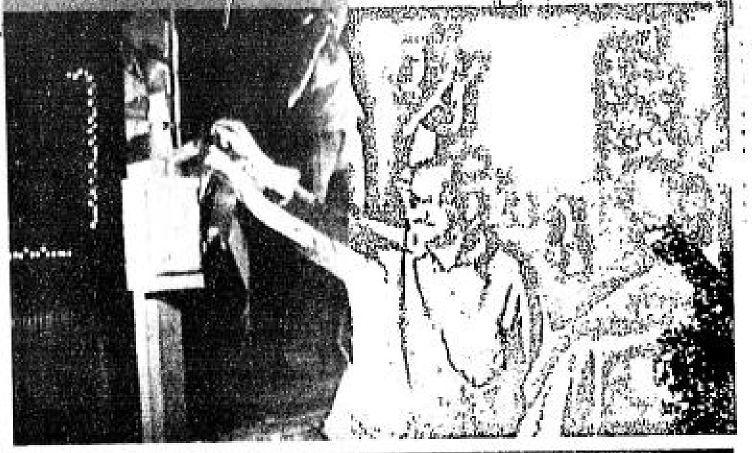
(PDI – December 2 & 9, 2005)

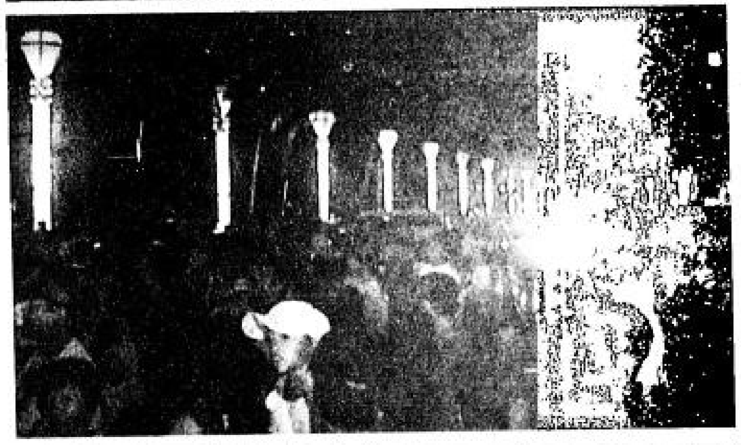
NREA business forum

THE NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION Inc (NREA), the one-stop trade organization, will hold its Year-End Business Meeting and Christmas Party on Dec. 6 (Tuesday) at 6 p.m., at the Gabaldon Hall of Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. This was announced by NREA executive vice president and acting prexy Andy S. Mañalac. Representative Eduardo C. Zialcita, chairman of the House committee on housing and urban development, will discuss the proposed Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Bill which seeks to create the Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) and further professionalize real estate practice in this multi-billion industry, Mañalac said. Other resource speakers invited were lawyer Lilian B. Hefti, deputy commissioner-operations group of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Danilo Ignacio, general manager of Robinsons Land Corporation, he added. Hefti will discuss updates on the expanded rules on the Expanded Value-Added Tax (E-VAT) while Ignacio will talk on his company's continued success in a thriving business environment. The business forum also coincides with NREA's Annual Christmas Party celebration that provides entertaining fellowship among NREAns and friends to rejoice in the yuletide season. New members will also be inducted. For particulars, call the Secretariat at tels. 913-4463 or 912-3492.

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 722-1155

Pasay City 142nd Founding Anniversary



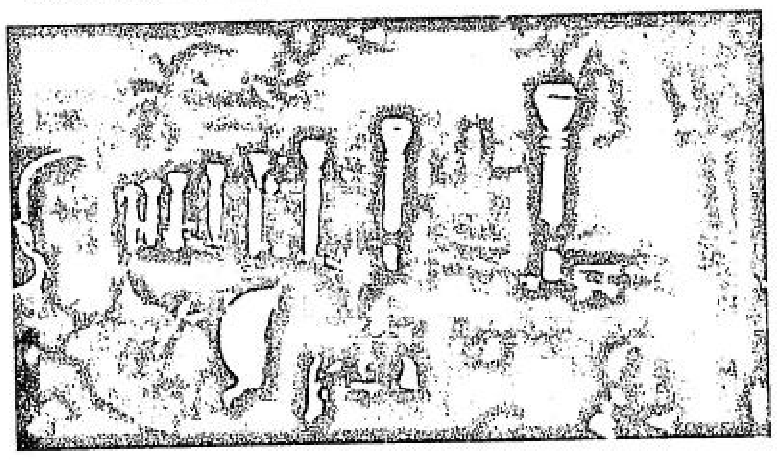


A dramatic transformation

LAST NIGHT, DURING THE EVE of the Pasay Day celebrations, the city government of Pasay led by Mayor Atty Wenceslao Peewee Trinidad inaugurated and had the ceremonial lighting of the Roxas Bouelavard. 233 lamposts were lit which symbolized the birthday candle of the city's 142nd foundation day.

Excerpts of the state of the city address of Hon. Mayor Atty Wenceslao Peewee Trinidad

There are so many things we can be proud of now about our city. The picture that is shown when asked how the city looks and how it runs now is totally different from how it was previously.



We have seen to it that that needs and expectations of our residents are addressed. Since having chosen a team of highly ethical and professional members of my official family, appropriate handling of department concerns based on appropriate and focused handling of essential needs are attended to.

As we have established an integrated approach to providing the needs of our residents, our six point agenda of progress complimented by the sequential methods of public service delivery registers an impressive list of accomplishments.

Education as a vital tool in developmental progress banners our major thrust of government. The establishment of two new high schools, the Kalayaan National High School and the Pasay City Science High School in a span of 12-months illustrates our serious commitment to improve our education sector. The construction of two three-storey schoolbuildings with twenty classrooms at the Pasay City East High School and Padre Zamora High School and the building of a four-storey West High school with 8 classrooms bring in a total of over 170 classrooms built. The repair of vital facilities such as gymnasiums, school offices, Science and laboratory rooms, home economics and industrial arts rooms, feeding rooms and canteens, rehabilitation of school corridors and renovation of libraries and school clinics were carried out lately in the 34 schools in the city.

Priority programs and projects are focused on health care, with a magnitude of resources devoted to its implementation. The annual city budget allocates 23% of its funding requirements to ensure the delivery of exceptional health service.

The City Health Office with its present set-up of 13 health centers, 12 of which are proudly certified "Sentrong Sigla" awardees involve all sectors or society for the institutionalization of health systems and good health practices. The Philhealth Plus program which has been recognized with a Galing Pook Award (other Galing Pook awardee from the city is the Bayanihan Banking System, a savings-entreprenurial program benifitting most barangays) serves well the health needs of the barangays.

Pasay has an impressive zero maternal death statistics the past two years, has attained a 93% rate of fully-immunized children and 114% Vitamin A supplementation rate.

The crime situation in Pasay was remarkably controlled to reveal a tolerable level of crime statistics. The anti-criminality campaign is winning and there is a significant lowering of figures in the precinct blotters.

Crime solution efficiency for 2005 reflecting January to November statistics is at 96.73 % with total number of crimes solved pegged at 1,095.

The responsive approach in handling the city's informal settlers realized an important breakthrough with the acquisition of a 10-hectare lot in Tanay as relocation site. Over 3,000 families from the danger zones of Tripa de Gallina stretching from the Makati boundaries to Maricaban creeks and Paranaque side, other families from the Gotamco area will be the beneficiaries of the relocation privileges.

The problem of unemployment is consistently being concerned by the city government. The Pasay Employment Services Office regularly conducts job fairs and and ensures that the employment needs of Pasayenos especially those belonging to the underprivileged sector are met. With the influx of new businesses coming in at the Bay City, with the new developments arising specifically the New SM Mall of Asia, the Metrobank group's ventures, Hobbies of Asia facility and other new establishments, the employment of residents are assured.

The city is now in the process of implementing a program called CBMS (Community-based Management System) It is a program designed to survey all households in the different barangays and be able to determine the actual number of our poor people. The survey results will then be reviewed and recommendations will be made to city officials to diagnose the extent of poverty and determine its causes and formulate appropriate and relevant policies to address it.

Further development of the tourism industry has always been included in the city's continued banner of reforms. Next to providing essential services, Mayor Trinidad believes that competitiveness as far as establishing tourist-friendly community is concerned, must be on top priority.

The vision: "A scenic premier city thriving with business and economic opportunities, guided by dynamic and efficient local leadership and home to self-reliant, healthy and morally upright people"

Development Thrust. The vision for Pasay City indicates the following development thrusts:

*Maximize tourism potential

*Enhance the city's image

*Promote multi-sectoral partnership

*Upgrade infrastructure and utility system

*Support business and commercial activities

*Promote welfare of city residents

*Raise the level of Local Government Unit (LGU) Services

*Increase the LGU revenue

Activities during Pasay Day celebrations :

November 30, 2005 - 6:00 pm -
Inauguration and ceremonial lighting of Roxas Boulevard lighting and beautification project

December 1, 2005 - 8:30 am - Flag-raising ceremonies
Awarding of Mayor's Award for Excellence

December 2, 2005 - 9:00 am - Opening of cartimar bazzar
6:00 pm - Lighting of giant christmas tree at astrodome
6:30 pm - State of the city address
-Hon. Mayor Atty. Wenceslao Peewee Trinidad
7:30 pm - Pinibining Pasay 2005 Grand Coronation Night .

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CHEAP CAR. A family of artists has produced this copy of a Hummer, using parts fabricated from fiberglass. British-born artist Peter Pinder, and his Filipino children, say this vehicle is a cheaper alternative. Pinder said the vehicle was light, and can reduce fuel consumption by as much as 20-30 percent. VINCENT CABREZA

AGRICULTURE, TOURISM

Lanzhou officials eye investments in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE Lanzhou municipal people's government of the province of Ganzu in the People's Republic of China have expressed plans to invest in Albay.

Lanzhou municipal mayor Zhang Junliang said during a recent visit here that among the potential economic investment areas were agribusiness and agri-tourism.

"This endeavor, we believe, could further strengthen the Albay-Lanzhou sisterhood relationship and other bilateral talks, for both our areas have prioritized this kind of livelihood for the benefit of our people," Zhang said.

Though the Chinese official did not disclose how much the group would invest in Albay, Zhang said the group was impressed by the province's potential and hoped to invest soon.

The Chinese mayor said the Lanzhou municipal people's government was also keen on the abaca and coconut production of Albay, the second top producing province in Bicol.

"It also came to our attention that the local government is maximizing its efforts to construct more farm-to-market roads, especially in the far-flung areas here, for easy access to crops and other agricultural products," Zhang said.

"With the success of our capability and experience in the said endeavor, we would like to share it with the province of Albay," he added.

Albay Governor Fernando Gonzalez revealed that aside from possible investments in agriculture, the visiting Chinese officials also expressed support to the construction of an international airport in Daraga, Albay.

Some representatives of the Chinese visiting group disclosed plans to train local businessmen on herbal medicine practices and other related health concerns. *Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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CDA at a loss on how to deal with co-ops

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE COOPERATIVE Development Authority (CDA) has admitted it was at a loss on how to regulate electric cooperatives once these decide to convert into stock cooperatives.

CDA executive director Niel Santillan said the CDA was more used to regulating credit, consumer or multi-purpose cooperatives, and not rural co-ops with complex operations.

This surfaced when Santillan faced officers of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Philreca) in a consultation on the stock conversion of electric cooperatives in Quezon City last Nov. 29.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, all electric cooperatives, which are currently non-stock and non-profit, are mandated to register as stock cooperatives either with the CDA or the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Philreca has questioned the required conversion due to operational and legal issues which, it claimed, could adversely affect the electric cooperatives' operations in retailing electric power.

Santillan agreed with Philreca's observation on the absence of a regulatory framework within CDA that could be used in resolving conflicts that would arise once electric cooperatives are absorbed under CDA as stock cooperatives.

"None of our CDA people has come from electric cooperatives, that's why when these cooperatives register with us, we (will be) confused and lost," he said.

However, the CDA is willing to sit down with the various electric cooperatives to come up with an operating manual to provide a regulating mechanism for CDA over electric cooperatives registered as stock cooperatives, he said.

There are 119 electric cooperatives in the country.

Five have already registered as stock cooperatives with the CDA while the rest are still under the National Electrification Administration (NEA). *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DTI lists five barriers to SME growth

DAVAO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF Trade and Industry (DTI) has identified at least five major barriers to the growth of small medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

Merly Cruz, DTI director for Southern Mindanao, said that SMEs faced major challenges such as the lack of local government plan for SME development, inadequate database for SMEs, weak SME centers, limited credit access and limited budget to finance businesses they were interested in.

"These factors have been considered as the prime (barriers preventing) our SMEs from achieving utmost growth," Cruz said.

She said the good news, however, was that despite the obstacles, SMEs continued to be the main drivers of the Philippine economy.

Cruz said SMEs contributed 32 percent to the country's Growth Domestic Product (GDP) and employed about 69.9 percent of the country's total labor force.

The impressive performance of SMEs despite the major barriers to their growth has prompted the DTI to adopt aggressive measures, which were aimed at assisting at least 140 SMEs in each province.

"The assistance comes in the form of business counseling, skills and entrepreneurial training, product design and development, marketing, and introduction of appropriate technologies and funding," Cruz said.

She said DTI also embarked on two major projects geared toward SME development.

These included the promotion of opportunities for enterprise and a livelihood development program. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Philtranco: Better value for travelers for 91 years

PHILTRANCO IS THE TOP-OF-MIND BUS company in most Philippine households from Luzon to Mindanao. With daily and twice-daily trips to the most in-demand destinations in the country, Philtranco holds the prestige of being not only the nation's most innovative and progressive bus company, but also the safest and most convenient. Philtranco, a pioneer with 91 years of service, is also regarded as an asset to the local tourism and commerce industries.

Philtranco has more trips from Manila to Bicol, with regular special discounts offered throughout the year to loyal subscribers. Philtranco has even more terminals and destination points in the Visayas, with routes that pass Iloilo and Tacloban, all the way to Mindanao, taking you as far as Tandag, Cagayan de Oro and Davao, through the Strong Republic Nautical Highway.

Just this year, Philtranco has been an indispensable part of several Asian flights, working in cooperation with the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at Clark, Pampanga. Tourists of all persuasions and homecoming OFWs will find travel to Manila easier, shorter, cheaper and more exciting through the Manila-Clark-Manila shuttle, with twice-daily trips that take passengers bound for or from Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu and Singapore to or from the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport straight from or to SM Megamall, at the heart of Ortigas Center in Metro Manila.

200 destinations

With the newest terminal at the very heart of Cubao, Philtranco now boasts of 17 major terminals, 34 end points and 200 destinations nationwide, encompassing the widest coverage in the country. Passengers to Bicol, Samar, Leyte, Panay and Mindanao will find an even more accessible and convenient departure point as Philtranco's latest main terminal opens in Cubao by the end of this year.

Exclusive to Philtranco passengers, the new terminal will have all new amenities, such as a spacious and secure waiting lounge, better facilities for ticketing and reservations, as well as areas for check-in and boarding, and a food court with several delicious, yet affordable, kiosks to choose from. A much bigger facility than Cubao denizens are used to, the terminal is found along Edsa, across from Farmer's Plaza and Araneta Coliseum, and walking distance from the MRT Station.

Philtranco makes a point to promote convenience for the traveler, this year opening more locations for terminals and drop-off points, and renovating existing ones. The new terminal in Tandag offers more choices of destinations in Mindanao, covering a further area southeast of the Surigao station. Also this year, Philtranco inaugurated the newly improved Catbalogan Terminal, found between the Calbayog and Tacloban stations on the Philtranco Visayan route. What was once a shabby outhouse beside a filling station and parking lot for the buses has been revamped, not only for the convenience of the travelers, but for the drivers and service crew as well. The ticketing booth now offers a cell phone charging outlet, as well as cozier meal stop spaces, a TV-viewing area and a smoking area, all for the benefit of Philtranco customers. It starts off the company's future plans of upgrading other terminals for even better service and accommodation.

Pushing the envelope

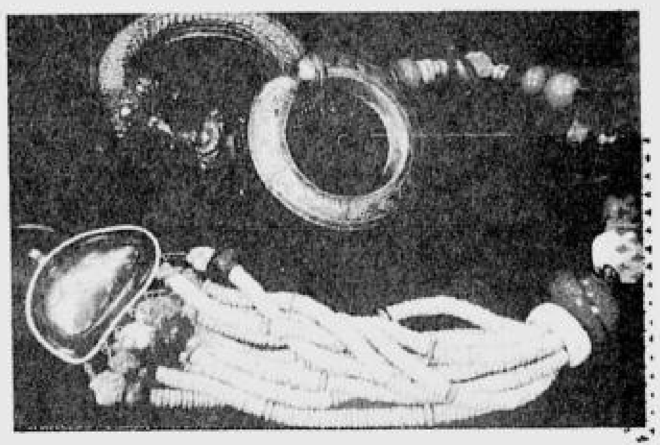
Established in 1914, Philtranco Service Enterprises Inc has since grown into the world-class, globally competitive transportation provider it is today. Philtranco continues to push the envelope, improving the quality of service for the Filipino riding public, with programs such as Luzviminda, a bus-cum-ferry operation encompassing Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, Biyaheng Pinoy, a revolutionary passenger service program aimed to promote seamless, worry-free travel, Philtranco Privilege Plus, offering year-round discounts and other amenities to regular Philtranco passengers, Philtranco SMS Service, PhilKargo, the fastest and most efficient cargo transport system in the country, the Computerized Ticketing and Reservations System, and the Philtranco Trading Post. As its newest service, the Philtranco Trading Post will provide exchanges of Agro and other local products from the different provinces and regions along Philtranco's Visayas/Mindanao routes with customers, wholesalers and retailers from Manila, through PhilKargo.

These are only some of the reasons seasoned travelers know better to spend that extra peso to ride Philtranco. True to its vision, Philtranco takes on the responsibility only the finest can deliver, bringing the Filipino more value.

IABC HOSTS REFORMED VAT LAW FORUM

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel P. Bonoan (4th from left) recently led a forum hosted by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines on the Reformed VAT Law. Flanking him are IABC directors Ramon Isberto, Smart Communications Inc; Ramon Osorio, Campaigns Advocacy and PR Inc; Marian Catedral, Caltex Philippines; Cosette Romero, Fleishman-Hillard-Manila; Elpi Cuna, Meralco; Veronica Tapia-Merk, Bank of the Philippine Islands; Lalaine Santana, Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp; and Rey Anthony David, Great Wall Advertising.

L'OBELISK ANNIVERSARY-HOLIDAY SALE



L'Obelisk, the jewelry company with shops at the Manila Peninsula and 6750 Ayala Avenue, presents imaginative pieces of jewelry with a kaleidoscope of colors and a chic mix of textures and shapes-all perfect holiday gifts for people who care for expressions of style. This yearend, both shops will celebrate L'Obelisk's anniversary, offering splendid pieces at 25 to 30 percent off regular prices. Those with the penchant for drama, for symbology, for romance with time sculptured stones, will find L'Obelisk a treasure house. While there are many who go for fashion, there are also women who want their jewelry both fashionable as well as great finds that are for keeps. There are gold-rimmed rings with topaze and huge zircons. There are citrins, peridots, rose quartz and amethyst ring variations set in gilded silver. Shimmering against the light are aquamarines, green obsidians, ruby-like agates, chunky and Navajo turquoise sets that are wonders to behold. For more information on L'Obelisk, call 887-6812 (Manila Peninsula shop) or 0919-2587229 (6750 shop), e-mail lobelisk@gmail.com, or log on to www.lobeliskjewellersinc.com.

CHAMPIONS
2005

WORLD CONVENTION OF CHAMPIONS AT LAS VEGAS

International Marketing Group (IMG) leaders recently attended the world convention of champions among financial leaders coming from different countries held in Las Vegas, Nevada conducted by World Financial Group (WFG). Shown, from left, are Belinda Hidalgo, associate; Gery Enimedez, field leader; Cathy Borja, CEO; Carmelita Chua, national marketing director; Art Tan, marketing officer; Delia Prescillas, senior marketing director; Jill de las Peñas, Shirley San Miguel, Greg Sabile, Tante Tapuro, CEOs; Kent Davis, VP world team WFG; Xuan Nguyen, chair, world team WFG; Joen de las Penas, president/CEO; Noel Arandilla, CEO; Solomon Evangelista, VP for international marketing; Bart Borja, CEO; Eva Panopio, senior marketing director and Rosary Roxas, marketing director. IMG continues to position itself as the top marketing company to deliver investment products and financial concepts to the average Filipino.

Branded Enalapril equally effective, affordable

AN EFFECTIVE BRAND OF Enalapril does not always have to be expensive.

In a new study conducted at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) proved that a more inexpensive brand of Enalapril provides an equal blood pressure-lowering effect as the originator brand.

This trial evaluated the effects of a generic brand of Enalapril to the originator brand in the management of mild to moderate hypertension. Enalapril is an ACE inhibitor which has been proved to be effective in treating hypertension and chronic heart failure.

It involved 83 hypertensive patients who took either the generic brand of Enalapril or the originator brand. After four weeks, there was no disparity in the systolic blood pressure (SBP) and diastolic blood pressure (DBP) reduction in both groups.

The study also confirmed that there were no notable differences between Enalapril 10mg and its originator brand in terms of changes in heart and respiratory rates. There were no reported side-effects in both groups.

According to Dr. Kurt Glenn Jacoba, chair of the department of internal medicine at QMMC, "Enalapril 10mg significantly controls blood pressure level similar to the originator brand. This study also proves that Enalapril 10mg has no known complications."

The cost of Pascual Laboratories' brand of Enalapril is 50 percent less than the originator brand. It costs P11.50 for 5 mg, P13.75 for 10mg and P16.50 for 20mg, unlike other leading brands of anti-hypertensive agents that cost P22.55 for 5 mg, P27.50 for 10 mg and P33.00 for 20mg.

Hypertension is an alarming problem in the Philippines. A survey by the Philippine Heart Association Council on Hypertension shows that 50 percent of hypertensive patients fail to comply with their treatment properly. More than 10 percent of them stated that financial difficulty is still the primary reason of treatment non-compliance.

Enalapril should be purchased only with a doctor's prescription.

For more information on Pascual's brand of Enalapril, text HYP MESSAGE to 0920-9618126.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

December 1, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PUBLIC BIDDING NO. 05-022

1. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the General Appropriations Act for CY 2006 and/or CY 2005 continuing appropriations, intends to apply the sum Three Million One Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty One Pesos and 44/100 (P3,186,721.44), being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Comprehensive Maintenance Services for Servers and Peripherals for CY-2006.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid opening
2. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the Comprehensive Maintenance Services for Servers and Peripherals, which include ten** (10) critical and eighteen (18) Less Critical servers and three (3) Workstations.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting December 5, 2005.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon cash payment to the BIR Cashier of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six Pesos and 72/100 (P3,186.72).
6. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on December 16, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.** ***at the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.***
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before December 28, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in Section 22.1 of the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening shall be on December 28, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the** ***3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.
9. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.
10. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Atty. James H. Roldan
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Rm 605, 6/F Procurement Division
BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 9265547/Telefax No. 9282026
Email Address: bac@bir.gov.ph

(Sgd.) JAMES H. ROLDAN
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Dec 2 & 9, 2005)

Bits & Clips

'Paskong Luminarias sa Pugad'

JOIN THE "PASKONG LUMINARIAS sa Pugad Christmas Celebration" by the Children of Don Bosco Pugad for a night of food and fun this Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Don Bosco Parish, Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Activities start with a Mass at 6 p.m. Guests can park at Amorsolo Street, San Lorenzo Village, Makati. For more information, call 884-2792.

RMCHS homecoming

THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY (CUBAO) High School Alumni Association Inc (RMCHS) will hold its 7th grand alumni homecoming today, Dec. 2, from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City, with the theme "Moving Forward as One". For details, call Boy San Diego at 0920-2736367, Alma at 924-8339/40, Beng Vila at 0916-4933581, or Mario Valero at 0926-2390549. All Monsays are invited.

Youth Awards

MULTI-AWARDED COLUMNIST Wilson Lee Flores will be guest speaker on Dec. 3 before 300 outstanding high school students and educators at the Quintin Yuyitung Awards for Outstanding High School Journalism at the Little Theater, CKS College, Manila. Winner of a record 5 CMMA and 3 Palanca literary awards, Flores will speak on "Excellence and Social Idealism in Journalism". The award is named in honor of the late Quintin Yuyitung, past president of the Manila Overseas Press Club, publisher of the "Chinese Commercial News.

Kraft 'Home Sarap Home'

KRAFT FOODS PHILIPPINES INC has launched the promo "Home Sarap Home" whereby consumers gain the opportunity to win a variety of Electrolux home and kitchen appliance products as well as brand new house and lot units located at Sta. Catalina Village, Dasmarinas, Cavite, a residential development of Ayala Land subsidiary Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. To participate, consumers only need to follow three easy steps. Promo lasts until Dec. 4. See posters and print ads for more details.

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Poro Point Management Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES
Location	Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union
Brief Description	Provision of Security Services to PPMC within the Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	P7,006,657.65
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	January 20, 2006 to January 20, 2007

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar contract within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the above ABC, and should have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the services. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 8-9, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference/Site Inspection	December 12, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	January 3, 2006
4. Bid Evaluation	January 4, 2006
5. Post-qualification	January 5-6, 2006
6. Notice of Award	January 20, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Seven thousand five hundred pesos (P7,500.00) to the PPMC Cashier.

PPMC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation and submission of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Vice President & COO

(PDI-Nov 25 & Dec 2, 2005)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OF MANILA / NORTHERN LUZON
PDO Manila/Northern Luzon Bldg., 22 Muelle de San Francisco, South Harbor, Manila
Telephone No.: (02) 527-8356 to 83 • Facsimile No.: 527-4414; 527-4704

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority, PDO-Manila/Northern Luzon invites interested bidders to submit Application for Eligibility and subsequently to Bid for the:

A. Name of Project : JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR CY-2006 OF PDO-MANILA / NORTHERN LUZON

B. Scope of Services :

1. Areas Covered
   - a. PDO Proper
   - b. PMO South Harbor
   - c. PMO North Harbor
   - d. PMO Limay
   - e. MICT Field Office
   - f. VTMS Control Center

C. Approved Budget Cost (ABC) : P5,072,886.00
Funding : PPA Corporate Funds

D. Equipment Requirement:

1. 19-units Floor Polisher, 16"
2. 4-units Heavy Vacuum Cleaner

E. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)
& Issuance of Eligibility/Bidding Forms : Dec. 09 to Dec. 12, 2005
Cost of Eligibility/Bidding Forms : P2,750.00 (VAT inclusive)
Place of Issuance : c/o BAC Secretariat, PDO-Manila / N. Luzon

F. Pre-Bid Conference : Dec. 13, 2005, 9:00 A.M., Conference Room, 3rd Flr., PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Manila

G. Submission of Bids : Dec. 27, 2005 not later than 8:45 A.M. c/o BAC Secretariat, Conference Room 3rd Flr., PDO Manila / N. Luzon Bldg. South Harbor, Manila

H. Opening of Bids : Dec. 27, 2005, 9:00 A.M. Conference Room 3rd Flr., PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Manila

Sealed bids shall be submitted to the BAC for the Procurement of Goods, PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila, which shall be publicly opened in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bidding, Evaluation of Bids and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

Head, BAC Secretariat	Mr. Alex G. Salcedo
PPA-PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon	Tel. Nos. 527-83-56 loc. 416
PPA Website	www.ppa.com.ph

(Sgd.) OSCAR S. ORNUM
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Nov 25 & Dec 2, 2005)

BUSINESS

Customs tightens monitoring of car imports

RP, Indonesia eye joint exploration deal

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE AND INDONESIAN governments are exploring the possibility of forging a tripartite agreement with Malaysia for oil and gas exploration in the Celebes Sea.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the Indonesian government, through Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro, brought up the idea of collaborating with each other to explore whether oil and gas could be produced from the area below the islands of Sipadan and Libitan.

This particular area, he told reporters, was the subject of a dispute among the three countries.

He said Yusgiantoro suggested that joint exploration be done despite the dispute.

The Indonesian and Philippine governments had earlier started talks on maritime boundaries, he said.

"But those talks have yet to be completed, so the Indonesians raised the possibility of studying a way to move forward even before the maritime boundaries are ultimately settled," he said.

"Of course, this is an issue that will have to be taken up through the respective departments of foreign affairs of the two governments," he added.

Should the tripartite agreement push through, he said it would be the first such pact between the Philippines and Indonesia.

"Indonesia has joint development agreements with almost everybody (in the region) except the Philippines," he said.

"We have (similar agreements in place) with Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. But more details on this will have to come later," he added.

The Philippines has a tripartite agreement with China and Vietnam for the conduct of seismic research over an area that includes the disputed Spratlys.

Under the agreement, the Philippine National Oil Co., China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. (PetroVietnam) will gather, process and interpret data from the identified area to find out if there are oil and gas reserves there.

The group had already finished acquiring the initial batch of data, which, according to PNOC president Eduardo Mañalac, were of relatively "good quality."

These data would be sent to Hanoi in Vietnam for processing, he said. This should be finished by January or early February 2006.

After processing, he said the data would then be sent to Manila for interpretation, a process that would take between three and four months.

Campi exemption removed to level playing field

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) HAS ORDERED all car imports to be subjected to stringent valuation to address smuggling of vehicles.

The directive thus lifted the exemption of the members of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) from valuation processes at Customs.

The exemption was one of the incentives originally given to Campi members, which include the biggest car manufacturers and importers, like Toyota, Honda and Mitsubishi.

"We are no longer exempting Campi members. All valuation of vehicles should not be based on declaration by importers," said BOC Officer-in-Charge Alexander Arevalo.

The lifting of exemption means that Campi members should now first get a clearance from the Office of the BOC Commissioner before their car imports would be released.

The Customs chief said the old system of computing duties on car imports based on values declared by car importers should be changed to help plug revenue losses.

The government was said to be losing over P200 billion annually from technical and actual smuggling, which was blamed for hurting legitimate local industries that could not compete with much cheaper smuggled goods.

The BOC is tasked to collect over P150 billion worth of duties for 2005, and is so far having difficult meeting its target.

At the end of October, the BOC was P9 billion short of its target.

Campi president Elizabeth Lee said the group was not opposed to the lifting of its members' exemption from valuation of car imports, noting that the BOC has initiated moves to shorten and simplify valuation processes.

"It's not a problem. We are complying with all the requirements," Lee said in an interview.

She said the lifting of the exemption from valuation was also a move to level the playing field among importers, and would remove perceptions that Campi was being favored over the others.

Lee added that Campi planned to sell 95,000 vehicles in 2005.

She said the group was on track so far to meeting the target, but added that sales performance for this year was also due to heavy advertising and marketing promotion.

First Gas awarded $99.3 million in damages

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A LONDON TRIBUNAL HAS RULED IN FAVOR of Lopez-owned First Gas Power Corp., an affiliate of listed firm First Philippine Holdings Corp., saying it was entitled to $99.3 million in damages due to the alleged delay in the construction of its 1,000- megawatt Sta. Rita power plant in Batangas province.

This was disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) by parent firm First Holdings yesterday.

The ruling by the International Chamber of Commerce in London does not mean that First Gas has a windfall of $99.3 million, but rather allows First Gas to suspend payments to its contractor, Siemens AG.

The London Tribunal, however, has yet to issue its final ruling on other claims made by First Gas and Siemens.

Siemens sued First Gas in 2002 after the latter denied payments worth $94.3 million to Siemens due to the alleged delay in the construction of the Sta. Rita power plant in Batangas.

The Sta. Rita plant began construction in November 1997 and was supposed to be completed in 1999. Instead, it was finished in 2000.

In December 2002, Siemens submitted a request for arbitration to the International Chamber of Commerce in London against First Gas with respect to the delays in the project.

Siemens wanted First Gas to pay an additional $64 million for "prolongation costs and miscellaneous matters".

But the arbitral tribunal on Nov. 1 declared that First Gas was entitled to damages for the delay worth $99.3 million.

It also said that Siemens was entitled to extensions of time and suspension of liquidated damages.

"The tribunal granted Siemens an extension of time, notwithstanding , it was determined that Siemens owes First Gas the entire $99.3 million," Richard Tantoco, senior vice-president for First Gas said.

First Holdings meanwhile also said in its disclosure to the PSE that First Gas has filed counterclaims against Siemens with the Arbitral Tribunal with respect to defects in the plant and unpaid damages worth another $83 million.

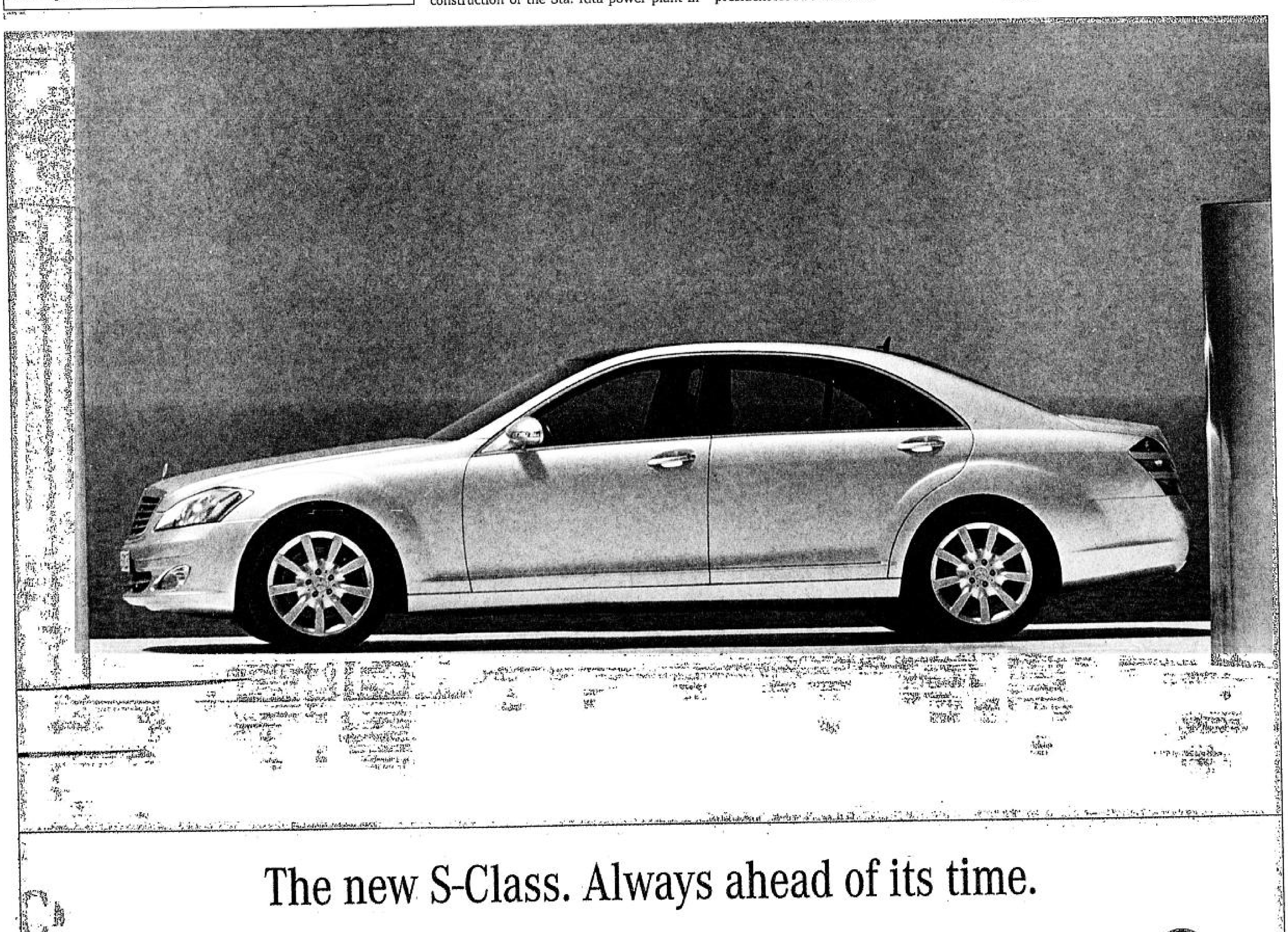
Both Siemens and First Gas claim interest from each other as well as legal costs involved in pursuing claims and counterclaims.

First Gas' counterclaims were heard by the tribunal last September.

The tribunal is now deciding on the merits of First Gas' claims as well as all remaining issues of costs that will be indicated in its final award, First Holdings said in its disclosure.

The Sta. Rita power complex is a component of the Camago-Malampaya gas power project, which calls for the supply of natural gas to fuel plants with a capacity of 3,000 megawatts.

The project will deliver energy to Lopez-led power distributor Manila Electric Co. under a 25-year power purchase agreement.



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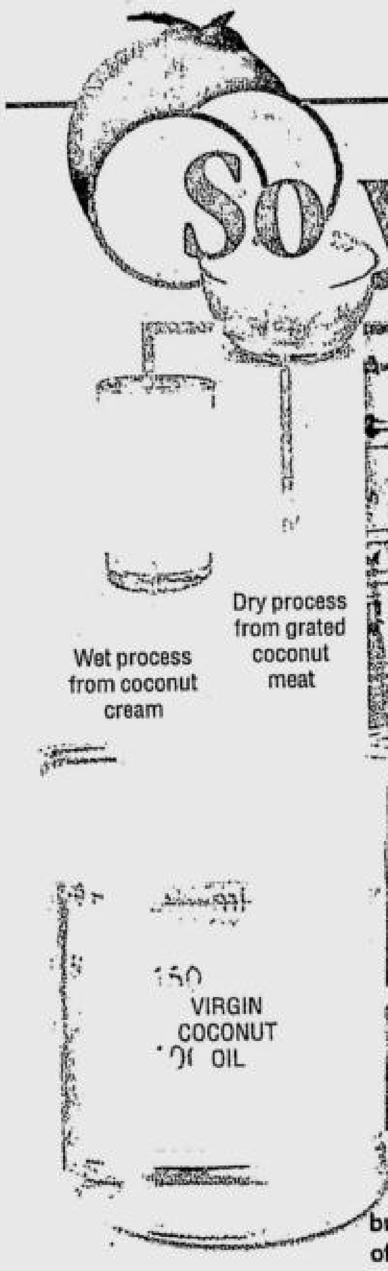
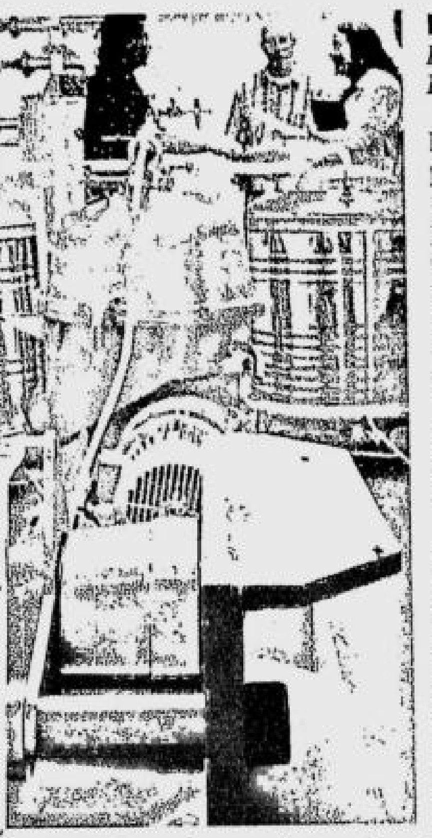
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

So you want to set up a VCO venture


Wet process from coconut cream
Dry process from grated coconut meat
150
VIRGIN COCONUT OIL



A FILIPINO producer, an international health advocate and an American buyer discuss the centrifuge processing of Philippine VCO for export.

By Sammy Latay
Board chair, VCO Philippines
President and CEO, Rare Earth

BECAUSE OF THE GROWING POpularity of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), many ventured into its production. On a small scale, it is easy to produce—buy coconuts from the market, grate and extract the milk and either cook or ferment and you have VCO which you could either sell or consume.

However, other considerations should be made when thinking of producing VCO on a commercial scale.

Many production "experts" have come out and started propagating VCO production technologies, which varies depending on their respective experiences and background. Expectedly, the most common technology employed is fermentation as the process requires small capital investment and the VCO is harvested within days from learning the process. Unfortunately, this technology transfer also caused problems associated with uncontrolled or unregulated production processes. There are already a number of disillusioned producers who have accumulated large inventory of VCO because nobody is buying. To avoid the risk of getting their oil rancid or stale, they result to selling the oil at very low prices and vow not to produce VCO again.

What could be done to avoid the "nata de coco" syndrome in the VCO industry?

The early entrants to the VCO production business did not have the benefit of having a benchmark to determine whether their processes and resulting products were good or bad. Over time, many variations of processes and tools have been used in VCO production today which gave us the opportunity to establish industry trends, process definitions, VCO quality standards and others which are important to ensure long-term success for the industry.

If you plan to invest in the VCO production business, consider the following steps:

1. Study the VCO industry, production processes and product quality standards.

Set your specific business goals and be realistic in attaining them. When you look at the whole industry, ask yourself whether you will be in the league of small, medium or big-scale producers.

You can get updated information about the industry, producers and capacities, production processes and product quality standards

SO YOU/B2-2

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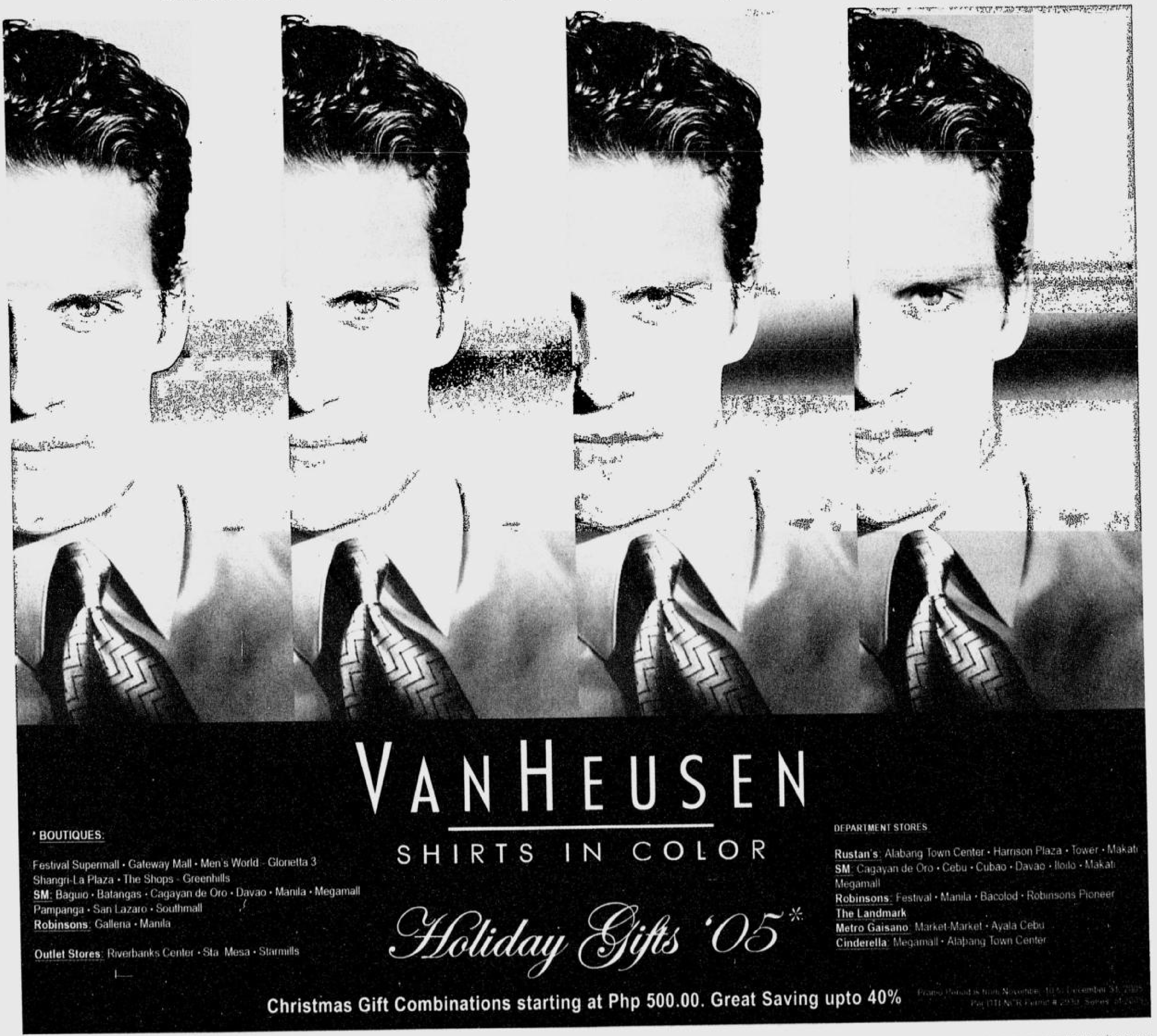
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KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise

It's ladies who keep pests away these days

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CLIENTS find lady pest control technicians more considerate and respectful to homeowners.

WOMEN ARE SLOWLY EATING their way into the pest control business as companies like Dow AgroScience's Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, ride on the distinct advantages of having female technicians in the male-dominated field.

Sentricon sales and marketing manager Gladez Ilao-Tavera Dow AgroScience has been encouraging its local affiliates since last year to hire more female technicians to provide more efficient service and better customer relations.

"As homemakers themselves, women are a good fit in the industry. because pest control technicians normally face the wives or maids when making the regular house visits," says Tavera.

"It's a good career opportunity because as women they can usually set their own hours and spend more quality time at home."

Based on feedback from customers, Tavera says clients find that lady pest control technicians were more considerate and respectful to homeowners which makes them ideal for customer relations.

"Women are also more thorough, more meticulous, more observant when they go into a house because we're used to cleaning our own homes and know and see the cracks and crevices that men don't necessarily see," Tavera says. "These are the distinct advantages of being a woman in the pest control business."

One of the first local pest control companies to heed Sentricon's call to hire more females is Pest-Away Exterminating Supply and Services where a quarter of its technical staff are female.

Pest-Away general manager Jonathan David said the feedback from clients have been overwhelmingly positive that it was only a matter of time that he would be hiring a female service manager.

David says the thrust to get more female technicians was not that difficult because Sentricon's safe and effective bait technology in running down a termite colony could easily be handled by females.

"After our male staffs put the bait in place, our female technicians handily took over the regular visits since there were no unsafe chemicals or heavy labor involved," David says.

David says that since Sentricon's system required up to 19 visits in a year, having female technicians made the job easier and more comforting to wives or the maids that they have to deal with.

David says that hiring lady pest killers was also a major boost from a marketing standpoint because it allowed the firm to tap new markets that require female staff like exclusive girls schools. Getting female staff was also not a problem, David says, because "we hire on attitude, passion for work and not on experience."

Although the Sentricon system was their main selling point, David says the pest control business was 50 percent product and 50 percent service. "This is where having female lady technicians gives us an edge over competitors because women are better at customer relations than men."

Sentricon, which takes advantage of natural termite behavior to get termites where they live, is the technology that protects the White House, the Statue of Liberty, other famous landmarks, and many homes and property in various continents.

PR agencies take center stage

PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCIES, or consultancies, are still largely under-appreciated, or misunderstood. While they specialize in making their clients properly understood and known, the agencies themselves prefer to stay behind the scenes. Do they represent meaning and value, or just a superficial service whose relevance lies, indeed, in many places, except the bottom line?

For the first time in the Philippines, a major conference will focus on the PR agency business, which in the last few years has risen in importance, though not necessarily in popular appreciation.

Philippine Public Relations Summit III will feature the theme "The Public Relations Agency Business: Marshalling Its Strength, Unlocking Its Value." It will be held on Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City.

According to the Counselors Academy of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), "choosing the right agency or consultant for the work you have at hand is critical because it can bring an objective, independent point of view to help you achieve your communication goals."

"It is high time that attention was focused on PR agencies and how they contribute to expanding business and investments, or building understanding and enhancing corporate social responsibility, as reported by major PR agency practitioners from here and abroad," said Romeo P. Virtusio, founder of the Public Relations Summit Series and chair of Virtusio Public Relations Inc.

Virtusio created the Philippine PR Summit Series in 2000 as a resource for PR practitioners, to augment their exposure to best practices with analyses of issues and presentations of case studies by local and foreign speakers.

Speakers will include Vivian Lines, president and COO of Hill & Knowlton-Asia Pacific, Yoly V. Ong, chairperson of Campaigns & Grey, Trevor Cook, director of Jackson Wells Morris, Australia.

Those who would like to register for PR Summit III may e-mail at prsummit3@virtusio.com, call 725-7891 or 726-5132, or log on to www.virtusio.com/prsummit3 to access a registration form and fax it to 724-41-88.

Sports marketing helps brand stay on top

THINK OF A BRAND THAT CONNOTES sports development and, chances are, you'll think of Milo—thanks to years of continuing support of the country's sports development, which is a core element of its marketing program.

For decades, Milo continues to enjoy recognition among consumers. "We remain on top because Milo never strayed in its commitment to raising awareness on the values and benefits of sports. And that's why we are one of the strongest supporters of the ongoing 23rd Southeast Asian Games," says Nestlé senior vice president and senior business executive manager for beverages and adult nutrition Eugene David.

Milo helped raise public awareness and involvement in the 23rd SEA Games through various activities and promotional materials. Foremost of these is the signature campaign encouraging everyone to write messages of support to participating Filipino athletes.

A series of advertising materials featuring exceptional Milo athletes has come out on prime time television and select print publications. New merchandising materials—posters, shelf-talkers, streamers, among others—have also been designed to reflect the SEA Games spirit. Most important of all, Milo has introduced a limited edition 23rd SEA Games can.

LIMITED EDITION
LIMITED EDITION
23rd SEA GAMES
MILO

PACKAGING of the popular drink has been used as marketing venues.

With over 30 years sports marketing, Milo has maintained a brand image that is highlighted with the tagline "the Olympic Energy Drink."

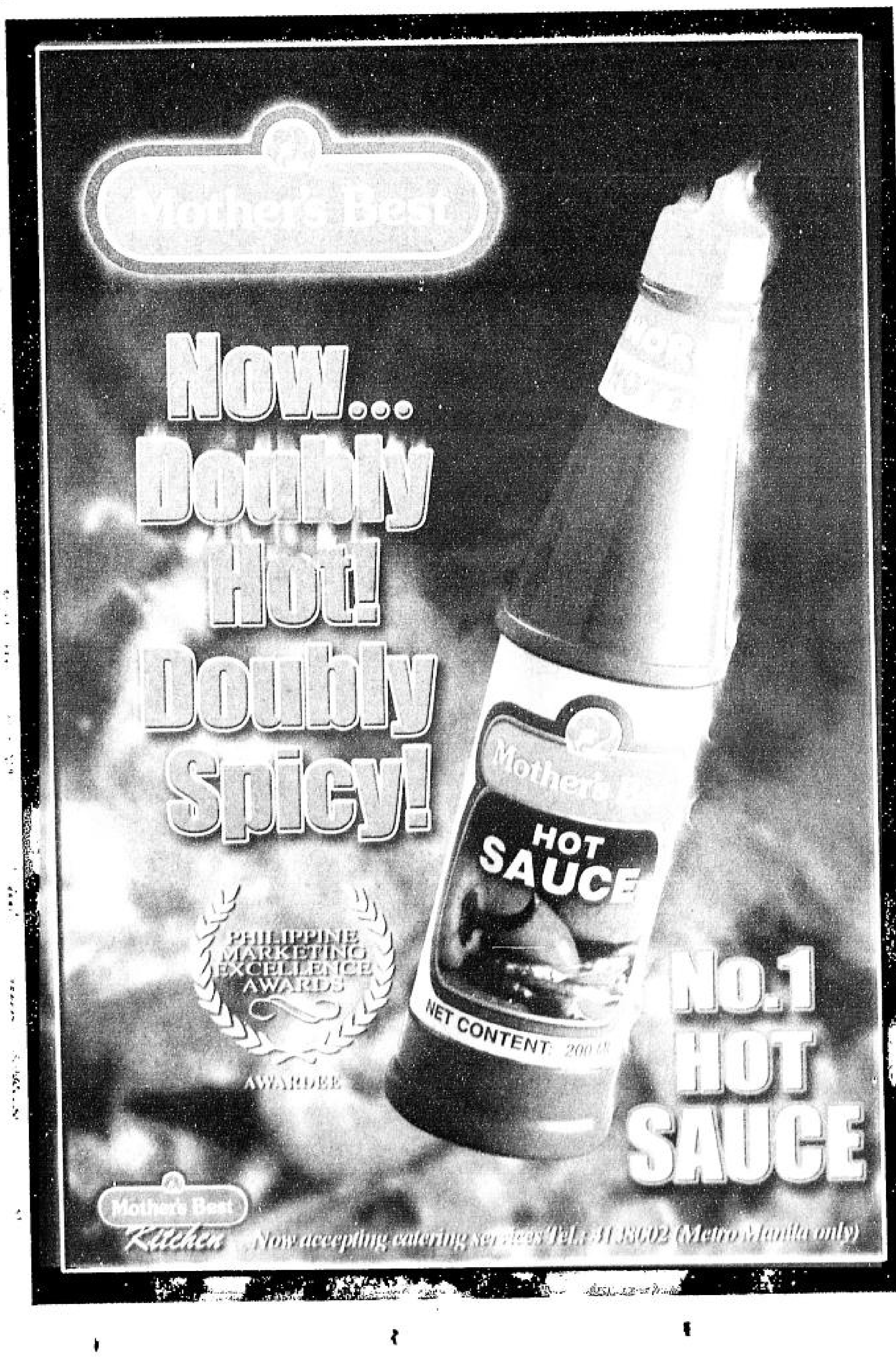
"The commitment of Milo to local sports development is palpable in its impressive number of sports programs. Most notable of these is the National Milo Marathon, the country's most prestigious running competition which will hold its 30th edition next year," says David.

Nestlé vice president and Milo brand manager Michelle Calo adds that Milo is always focused on what it can contribute to the development of the youth, which explains the staging of several sports programs like the Milo Little Olympics, the Milo Summer Sports Clinics and the Milo Enerjam School Tour.

According to Calo, "These events have become part of the sports landscape amongst students across the country because they attract the best student athletes to participate in a highly challenging yet friendly atmosphere. As we at Milo like to say, "great things start from small beginnings."

The most rewarding aspect of its sports programs is that it has allowed Milo to consistently nurture and develop the country's sports champions. This is evident in the ongoing 23rd Southeast Asian Games where a number of Milo athletes are competing for gold and giving glory to the country.

All these years, Milo has proven that supporting the development of sports among the youth is the crucial part of its marketing program that has made the brand No. 1 in the market.



So you want to set up . . .

From page B2-1

from the VCO Producers and Traders Association of the Phils. (VCO Phils.) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). Most of the current producers, notably the small ones in remote locations, are not even aware that there is a minimum standard for quality, that there are things like moisture content and FFA or free-fatty acids measurements.

You can also expand your research by visiting supermarkets, department stores or drugstores where VCO is sold and checking the packaging, pricing, distributors and other details which you will use in formulating your own strategy.

It is also crucial for the producer to differentiate his VCO from the other hundreds of producers out there. The target consumer should be able to identify or differentiate the new VCO product via USP—Unique Selling Proposition. If you will produce a fermented VCO similar to dozens out there in the market, why will your target consumer buy your product? USP could be significantly lower price, higher Lauric Acid, fresher taste and aroma due to introduction of a new process, organically grown and certified coconuts or other chemical or physical characteristics. If your VCO is a late entry and offering no USP, chances are very slim to succeed in a crowded market.

2. Study the regulatory requirements to operate a VCO facility.

VCO is considered as food or food supplement and is covered by the regulation of Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) of the Department of Health. The facility should have a license to operate. The PCA's administrative order for the implementation of VCO standards contains the list of requirements for authorized producers.

You should also study the environmental impact of your processing facility. The barangay and municipal or city government will be asking how you dispose your waste; for big processors, environment clearance certificate from DENR is needed.

3. Define your target market.

You could produce VCO and sell to distributors, direct to consumers, or to exporters/consolidators. The easiest part of the VCO business is producing. Marketing is doubly harder especially if you do not have a clear strategy on how to move your product.

Each target market has different requirements. Distributors will give you their specifications as to packaging, size, quality and price range but you will have to design your own VCO product specification if you decide to sell direct to consumers. If you sell to consolidators or exporters, they will give you details for product delivery. If you decide to export VCO yourself, think twice as you have to learn a lot of details about pricing, logistics, foreign country requirements and payment systems among other things.

If you are a small producer and plan to pool your VCO with other producers to fulfill a big order, remember that this will work only if you use the same or similar production processes and have the same quality characteristics. Until now, there is no formula designed to address the specific issue.

4. Know how much investment is needed in the VCO venture.

Investment in building the facility depends largely on the number of nuts to be processed per day, the type of process to be used, the level of automation/control to be employed and the processing or recovery of by-products of VCO processing. Fermentation facility would probably be the cheapest at an initial investment of around P200,000 while small scale expelling, using low heat and low pressure need around P500,000. Medium scale production using centrifuge technology would need a starting capital of around P5 million depending on the drying technology to be used.

Large scale production facility similar to dessicators would need hundreds of millions of pesos in investment.

Substantial amount is needed too in the day-to-day operation like cost of raw materials (coconuts), labor, supplies, fuel and other small items. As an example, a VCO order for 20-foot container van (about 15,000 to 18,000 liters of VCO) for export will need around 250,000 nuts to be processed and total estimated investment to produce, pack and ship VCO to buyer's destination might need between P3 million-P 4 million.

If you want to compete in the sophisticated markets like Europe, Japan and the United States, you will have to consider investing in HACCP and Organics certification. Be ready to shell out at least P500,000 to complete the requirements.

It will help to have a high level of understanding of cash flow, investments in capital and operations, return on investment (ROI) and payback period.

It is ideal to conduct a feasibility study before a go/no-go decision for production business is made. The study will normally cover the market, technical, financial and environmental aspects of the VCO production business and the investor would be given different options given a set of assumptions. (*From "Oil you want to know about Philippine VCO" Resourcebook, available at National Book Store)*

How to predict market . . .

From page B2-4

sum up to 100 percent. That's your test of a share measure. If the total of each comes to more than 100 percent, the problem is either of two things. One is that you probably picked the wrong set of percentages. For example, we've seen in a number of cases, new users of market research summing up the brands' "other mention" awareness.

Such an awareness mention from each surveyed consumer is typically more than one brand. So its total across the category brands will be more than 100 percent. The other source of exceeding a 100 percent total is consumers' segmenting their brand usage. Our previously cited example is when a good number of category users say that they have two "most often used" brands, say, for toilet soap. In such a case, those with two most often used brands have segmented their toilet soap usage into face usage and body usage. For these consumers, there is now a face-using soap segment whose needs are different from those who are in the body-using soap segment.

We have been asked: "In forecasting market share changes, how can one UAI study measuring such changes? Isn't it that even a single change will require two studies to measure that change?"

Strictly speaking, this is correct. But in a single UAI, you can use data analysis drawing on the logic of the market share and mind share link to make that change forecast.

Mind shares for toothpaste

In one of the UAI surveys that the market research students of the senior MRx-er did, the mind share and market share ratios that the survey obtained for Colgate toothpaste and Close-Up among toothpaste users came out as follows: Mind share was 38 percent for Colgate and 46 percent for Close-Up. Market share was 42 percent for Colgate and 37 percent for Close-Up.

The mind share here tells us that Close-Up is the market leader at 46 percent mind share while Colgate is the challenger brand at 38 percent mind share. On the other hand, in terms of the competition in the physical marketplace, the market share ratios say that it is Colgate who is the market leader at 42 percent market share and Close-Up is the challenger at 37 percent market share.

Using the concept of mind share as predictor of market share, we can predict that "if Colgate does not do anything," over time its 42 percent market share will go down to the level of its 38 percent mind share. Colgate will therefore eventually lose market leadership. On the other hand, the prediction for Close-Up says that "if Close-Up continues to do whatever it is it's doing," its 37 percent market share will over time go up to the level of its 46 percent mind share.

Why do we have the qualifiers: "if Colgate ..." and "if Close-Up ..."?

Because the projected market share changes are statistical probabilities. Over the years that companies have been applying the concept, the forecasts materialize in 7 to 8 out of 10 cases. The 20-30 percent cases where the forecasts went "wrong" were those where a market share loser (like Colgate) did something to stop the market share loss or when a market share gainer (like Close-Up) discontinued the good it was doing.

The forecasts can also be validated by another set of data from the same UAI study. This data set refers to the responses of the surveyed category users to the questions of previous versus current brand used most often.

Here are those data for this toothpaste UAI. Previous percentage of brand used most often (or previous market share) is 57 percent for Colgate and 22 percent for Close-Up. Current percentage of brand used most often (or current market shares) is 42 percent for Colgate and 37 percent for Close-Up.

During the study, it was "validated" that Colgate's market share had been on a downtrend. In contrast, it was "validated" that Close-Up had been gaining market share. By analysis, you've rendered the data from a single UAI study to effectively assume a dynamic character.

Resort to multiple metrics

That's as much as we can simplify this complex relationship between mind share and market share. We should close by reminding ourselves that as far as marketing metrics (such as these two major ratios of mind share and market share) are concerned, we should always try resorting to multiple metrics. Use 2-3 measures of mind share as well as of market share.

This is particularly critical to do when using metrics from market surveys. The ratios from a market survey are imperfect. To get to a more and more perfect measure, use two other measures. But make sure that in this process, the weakness of the first is compensated for by the second, and the weakness of the second is made up for by the third.

In metrication, this is known as the principle of "triangulation." It's a worthwhile concept to keep in mind when you're into quantification as you certainly are when you're forecasting. When it comes to "difficult" matters like this, avoid escaping the cerebral hardship by invoking the cliché, "it's all good in theory but not in practice." Remember that it was Kurt Lewin, the pragmatist of the many psychological theorists of his time, who said: "Nothing can be more practical than a good theory."

Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

No 'must-have' item on lists

NEW YORK—AS US RETAILERS gear up for what they hope will be a hot start to the key holiday shopping season, this year's "must-have" buys seem largely unclear.

While the standard wish list remains predictable—cashmere sweaters, digital cameras, jewelry and toys—industry analysts are divided over what, if anything, is likely to emerge as this year's No. 1 seller.

Stand-out candidates so far are consumer electronics, according to several analysts, including Deutsche Bank's retail specialist Bill Dreher.

"There is a commoditization of the digital revolution," Dreher said. "We're seeing home theaters and smaller flat-screen TVs and MP3 players and laptop computers." He called the $398 Hewlett-Packard Co. laptop computer—expected to go on sale on Friday at Wal-Mart Stores Inc.—"an amazing value." A hot item launched this week is Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox 360.

The hot status is a mixed blessing, however. Retailers have reported widespread sell-outs on the system, which is the first from a major console maker in four years.

The new Xbox sells for $400, with a "core unit"—faulted by some hard-core gamers because it lacks a hard drive to let it play older games—going for $300.

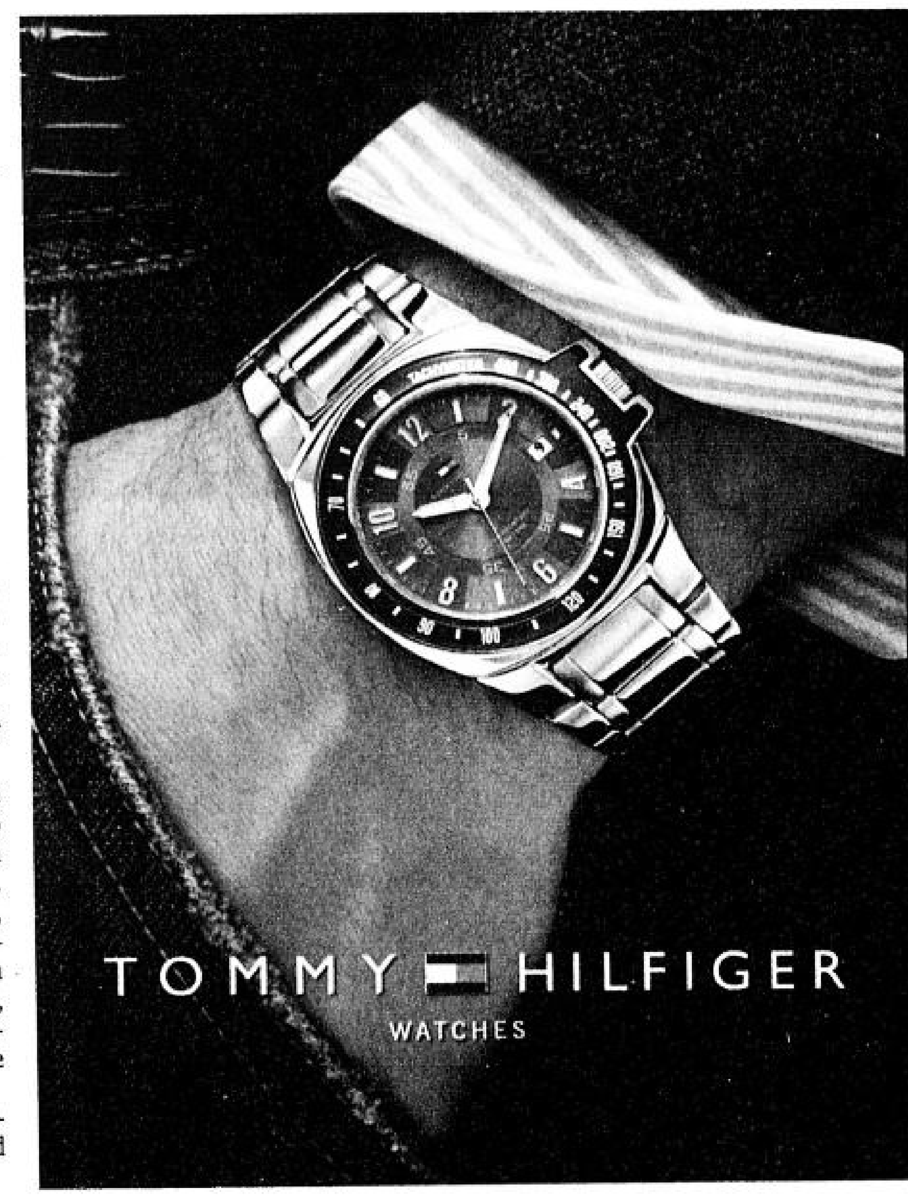
Legg Mason analyst Richard Jaffe takes a different view, saying "electronics lack the sizzle of prior seasons." In a note to clients, Jaffe wrote: "MP3 players, including the ubiquitous iPod, are no longer an exciting novelty. DVD players are now a commodity ... the flat-screen frenzy has tapered significantly." Nevertheless, accessories for iPods and other MP3 devices are expected to be key sellers.

"Speakers and musical toys that play with the iPod are going to be very hot this holiday season," said Toys R Us Inc.

president John Barbour, adding that "a new video game platform like Xbox 360 ... is going to be the must-have for many kids." For younger kids, the hot seller has yet to emerge.

Since Mattel's new plush Elmo "Knows Your Name" interactive doll is not likely to enjoy the same popularity as its 1996 "Tickle Me" predecessor, electronics are also seen as the likely draw for tech-savvy children.

"There is going to be something" that will become the hot seller this year, says Harris Nesbitt toy industry analyst Sean McGowan, but "I just don't know what it is." *Reuters*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WATCHES

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available at:

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NoCurfew Watch Stores
- Shangri-La Plaza Mall
- New Farmers Plaza
- Market! Market!
- SM San Lazaro
- SM Marilao
- SM Pampanga
- SM Batangas
- SM Iloilo
- SM Davao
- SM Cagayan de Oro
- SM Department Stores
- NoCurfew Kiosks

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Stellux Emporium
- Rizal Ave. Sta. Cruz, Manila

Royaltime Emporium
- SM Baguio
- SM Sucat
- SM Fairview

Prestige Jewelry
- SM North Edsa
- SM Baguio
- SM Cebu
- SM Iloilo
- SM Southmall

Washington Jewelry
- Alimall, Cubao

Ping's Central
- Market! Market!

Heritage Time Center
- SM Bacoor

Timeshoppe
- SM Fairview

Time Tradition
- Dumaguete

INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday, December 2, 2005

Watch Pinoy Power in America's Hottest Dance Challenge!
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5									Sentro	2005 South East Asian Games					Big News	2005 South East Asian Games			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Kung Fu Fight Nights			Insider
AXN						Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Mondo Magic	E Buzz						
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Cinemax		Dragnet			Crossworlds (4:45 PM)				Scent Of A Woman					Star Trek Nemesis				Devil Winds (10:55PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery				The Most Extreme		American Chopper						Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Motorsport Asia	In The Driver's Seat	Pool Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Motorsport Asia	Pro Billiards 2005 Men's Int'l Challenge	Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing: M. Franklin vs M. Johnson		Sportscenter Asia	X-Games Files '04	Pool Snooker World Pool League '05		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	GBB	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTN Gallery	Super Saints	Life on The Rock Encore		Marriage Works In Christ	Defending Life	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romance	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law II		Judging Amy		Straight From The Heart			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO		Open Season			Let's Get Harry (4:45 PM)				Stinger			Top Gun (8:15 PM)				Angels In America Chapter 4: Stop Moving		Angels In America Chapter 5: Beyond Nelly	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita			Global Family Series		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Extreme Days				Worst Case Scenario	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Ask	Mush		Trippin	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Get Hitch'd	Get Spotted	Diyes		Wade Robson Project	Trippin	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		TattooTouch, The Forgotten Sense		Sacred Skin		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Amazing Moments		True Face Of Hurricanes			
NBN				New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sia?	GSIS Member's Hour		Sea Games		Teledyaryo				Kamao		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Night Of The Champions		Batas Mo, Batas Ko				Mahirap Maging Pogi				Fight Night 2				Lihim Ni Madonna		
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Cold Case		Medium		Newswatch Now	TV Gratis On Friday		
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Solar Sports		2005 IBF Hongkong Badminton Finals					2nd PHIL-9 Ball					Sportsdesk		NBA Game: Lakers @ Jazz					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus		The Tour Championship Highlights		NFL 2005: New England @ Kansas City						Monster Jam Ep. 10 Tampa Show B		Raceworld		This Is The PGA Tour		Chrysler Championship Day 1			
Star Movies			Dance With Me (3:35 PM)				Ravenous (5:45 PM)				Bio-Dome (7:25 PM)			The Girl Next Door			Dark Harvest (10:40PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector/Miss Earth		Angel		Friends	Ultimate Force
Studio 23		Rave						The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Survivor Guatemala		Barkada Nights		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

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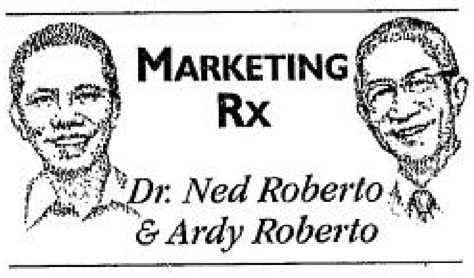
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

How to predict market share changes via mind shares



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE'RE NOW REVIEWING OUR marketing forecasts for next year. In our presentation to top management for one of our major brands, we were asked to review our projected market share. The budget committee agreed with our projected sales increase, but said this would not necessarily mean increase in market share. Our team realized that this can't be true but didn't know how to show this in the forecast we presented.

This is not the first time we've been asked this question. But this time, we were told to "have the right answer."

I asked advice from a colleague who attended one of your seminars. He said that he learned that changes in market share are predictable from share of mind changes. How does this work exactly?

A: It was Ries and Trout who popularized the concept of "positioning" as (among others) the link between market share and mind share. That was way back in 1968! According to this link, any change in a brand's market share is preceded by a change in that brand's mind share.

The competition in the consumer's mind (measured by mind share) takes place before competition in the physical marketplace (measured by market share). If for example, your consumer-housewife who's shopping for tomato sauce and pasta has your brand in her mind when she goes to the supermarket, then you've practically already won the battle. (Unless she gets intercepted at the supermarket by promo merchandisers who entice her to try another brand.)

If this is true, then share of mind can be used as a predictor of market share.

In the early '70s, the senior MRx-er, in an article published in the US Journal of Advertising Research, translated the concept in terms of consumer behavior. The article showed that every external or behavior change in the consumer takes place only after an internal change. A market share change is an external consumer behavior change. That's like going from "less buying" to "more buying." A mind share change is an internal change in the consumer's mind. That's like going from "less top-of-mind awareness" to "more top-of-mind awareness."

Being solidly founded in actual practitioner experience and in consumer research, the concept gained usage in forecasting which is your concern. The data used come from the measures of market shares and mind shares in a UAI study.

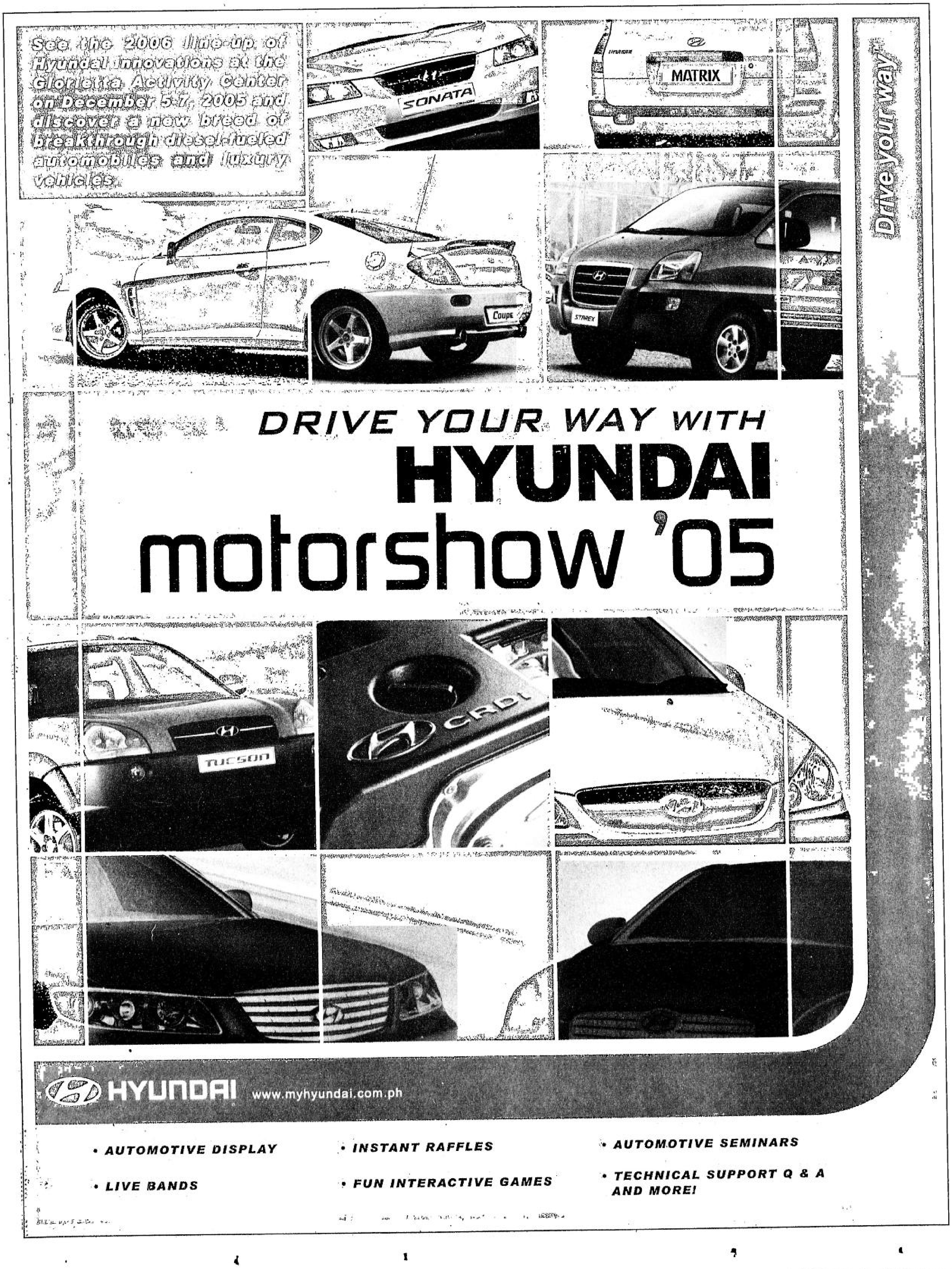
UAI measures a brand's share of market by either one of two ratios. The first is the percentage of product category users who use the brand most often. The second is the percentage of category users who used the brand the last time they used the category.

Top-of-mind awareness

The UAI has also two ratios for measuring a brand's share of mind. The first is the percentage of category users with a first mention (or top-of-mind) awareness for the brand. The second is the percentage of category users who had the brand in mind when they last shopped for the category.

Across all the category brands, each ratio of these four ratios will

HOW TO PREDICT/ B2-3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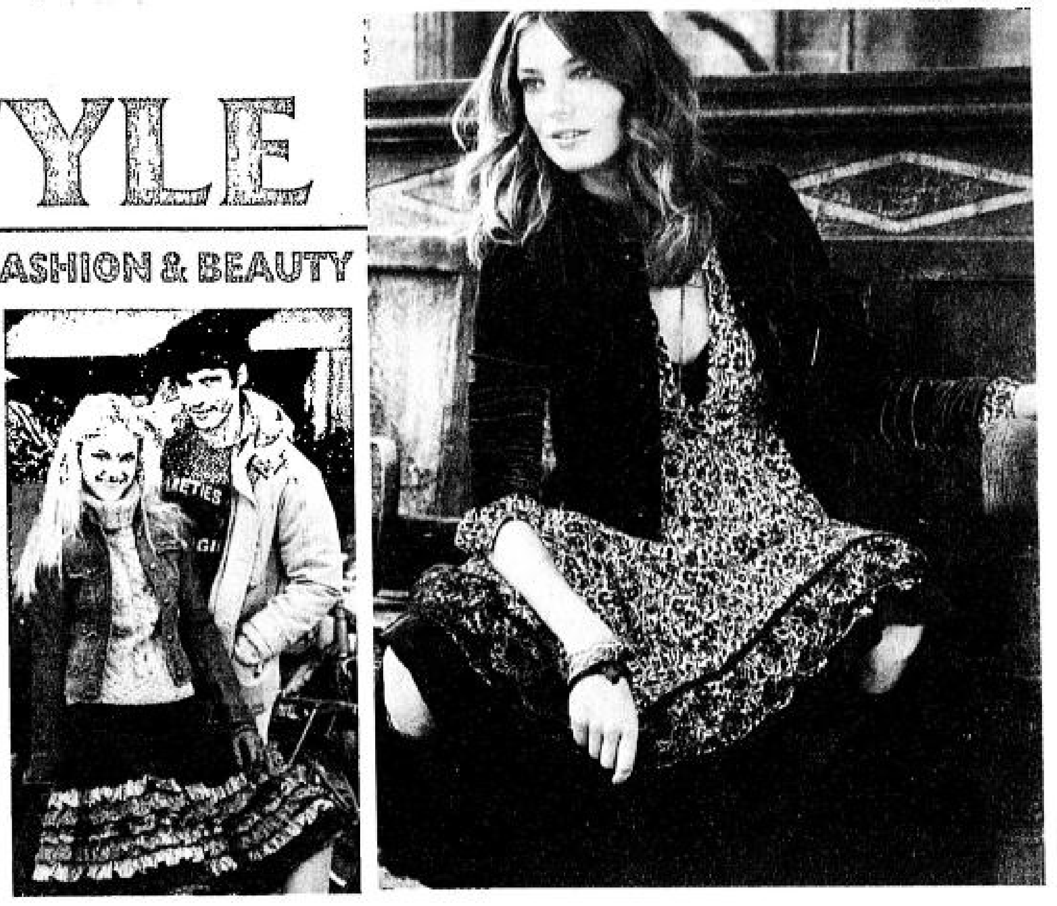
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Redefining fashion retail



ZARA, the mighty Spanish brand, makes a splashy debut in Manila.

THE OPENING OF ZARA MUST have been the most successful in fashion retail this year.

The 1,500-sq m sprawl at Rockwell was packed with a good mix of fashionistas and buyers (not one and the same thing). Guests were snapping up the merchandise before, during and after cocktails and the show. And to think it was the Fall-Winter collection!

And you say these are hard times? While times may be hard (so what else is new?), fashion retail will not give up on a certain market segment—the high-end down to the middle. In Zara's case, the broad high-end is proving to be lucrative.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

The Spanish brand's entry into the Philippine market is redefining fashion retail in the country.

Why? This early, it's showing that a potent formula of good price points, trendy but wearable designs and high-quality fabrics will make even the upper middle-class, particularly the yuppies, part regularly with their hard-earned cash. We learned that Stores Specialists Inc., which runs Zara here, is ready to replenish stocks twice—you read right, twice—a week.

Quite telling was the sight of men and women pulling the merchandise off the racks—a shopping frenzy right on opening night. I was surprised to see a couple of girls in their teens try on a classic black wool bolero. I thought this Sabrina-Audrey Hepburn look appealed only to me now. Apparently not. They bought it, and so did I.

Beauty editor Mel Cuevas told me tank tops could go as low as P500. I didn't get to see those because I was drawn to the coats and jackets. Tweed jackets and military jackets and coats that are the hottest today can go for P7,000. Given the fabric and the construction, that's a good buy. Elsewhere, jackets and suits in such fabrics go from P10,000 to P16,000.

Skirts, trousers, jeans, tops are reasonably priced as well, in silks or thicker blends.

Another surprise was that this was a winter collection being snapped up. Where will they wear those clothes?

Apparently there is a market out there that regularly travels—whether on business or leisure—that finds it cheaper to buy its fall or winter wardrobe here than abroad. As SSI executive vice president Anton Huang noted, given the weak peso, those who used to shop in HK regularly now do so here.

We learned that it wasn't just an opening-night fluke. On weekends, Zara also teems with shoppers. It proves that fashion retail can still rake it in once it hones in on its market.

Pursuit of excellence

While Jackie Aquino mounted a polished show at the Zara opening, Robbie Carmona, under his production outfit, Saga, staged the anniversary show of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines, the most active fashion and design group in the country. The FDCP show was a fashion review that gave one a glimpse of the range of design capabilities and sensibilities of today's designers—from the hip and trendy to the classic.

Its value was that it was reflective of the state of fashion design—a pursuit of excellence that goes on against all odds. The influx of foreign brands has not diminished the drive of these designers. Our crop of designers is versatile, adventurous and is into various directions.

You could see that the relatively older ones continue to adhere to clean cut and tailoring—Tonichi Nocom's men's khaki ensembles, Rajo Laurel's tailored coats, Vic Barba's sleek denim jacket and denim-blue clothes, to name a few. Then there's Tippie Ocampo's now relatively sober taste—a far cry from her over-the-top styles in the beginning. There's Arcy Gayatin's trademark innovative but clean silhouettes and detailing, Oj Hofer's maverick construction.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are the free structures and rebellious bent of an Alex Pigao or an Edwin Ao (a revelation for us that evening).

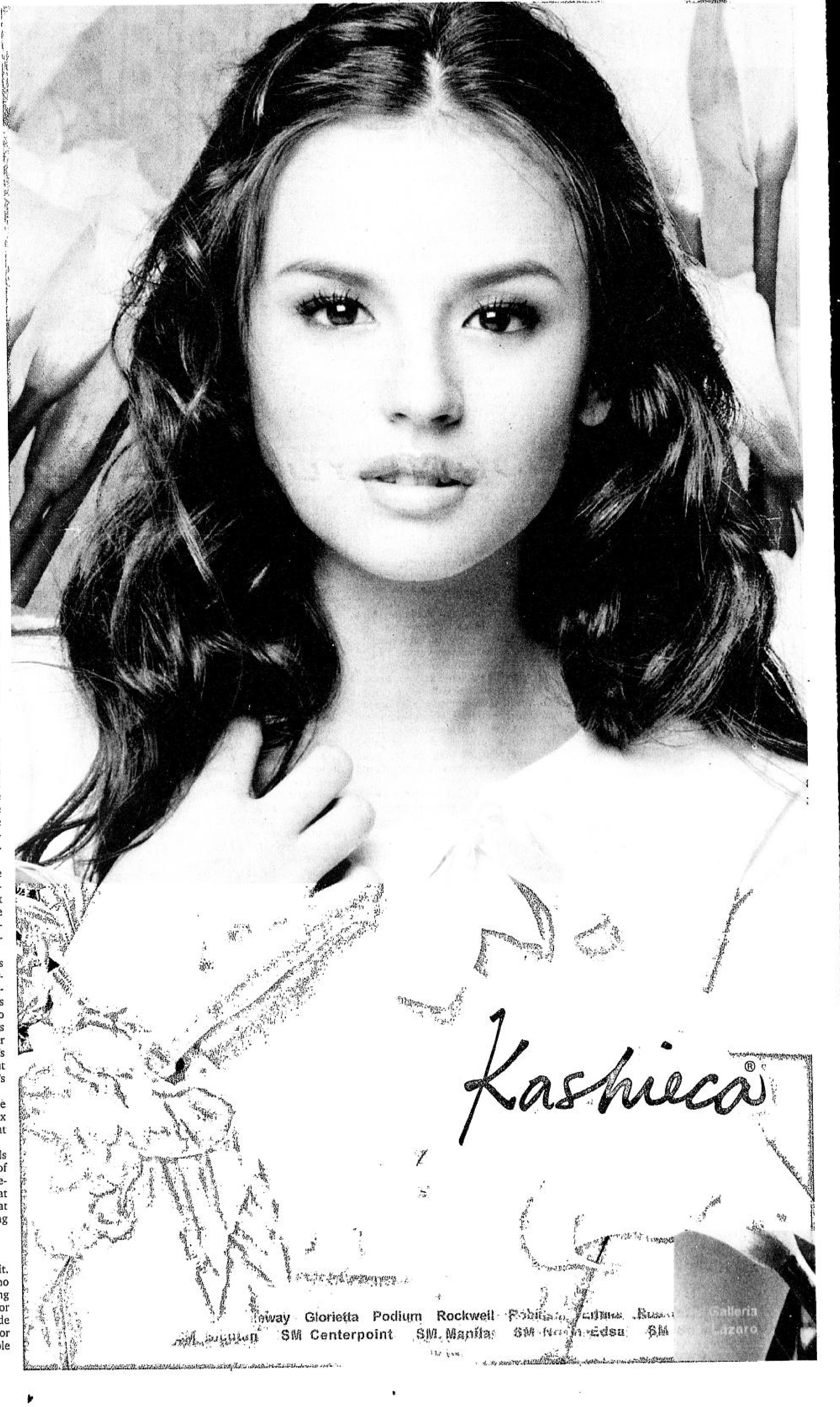
Against all odds, Philippine fashion reveals its many faces and phases, as well as levels of competence. The curious thing is, these designers continue to slug it out no matter that many of them don't have a retail outlet. That just goes to prove that there's no containing the Pinoy creativity.

Surprise find

And we consumers can only benefit from it. Just to show you, recently I realized I had no pink gown to wear to a weekend wedding where I'd be a sponsor. My existing pink or peach gowns were not sufficiently wide enough at the waist and hips, not Auggie's or Inno's fault, but mine and the irresistible cheesecakes.

I dashed off to the mall, scoured the boutiques, and what a surprise find: At Cinderella, I found a long silk chemise that's just the appropriate fuchsia and right ankle-length. The bigger surprise was—it cost only a little over P1,500. Now, considering that its cut is similar to the famous Narciso Rodriguez's wedding chemise for the late Carolynn Kennedy, that was quite a find, and a steal.

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com



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SM Centerpoint SM Manila SM North Edsa SM
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Lazaro

THE HOSTS of the turn-of-the century-themed birthday party, lawyer Tito Tesoro and wife Patis Pamintuan T., with Southern gent Joe Marie Treñas and Marivic Madrigal Vazquez, the celebrators

TEDDY Boy Locsin and wife Louie L.

POPULAR couple Richard and Sandra Lopez

PARTYING in Old World style. Stanley and Abby Chan

TOP GALS of the Oriental Ceramic Society. Delly Yap and Mary Garlicki

RAMON Villegas and my amiga, *palangga* Bambi Harper

HETTY Que and husband, taipan Paulino Que

BANKER Andrew Tan with Annie Sarthou, Rosanna Go and international artist Ben Cab

Filipiniana feast and Oriental deli

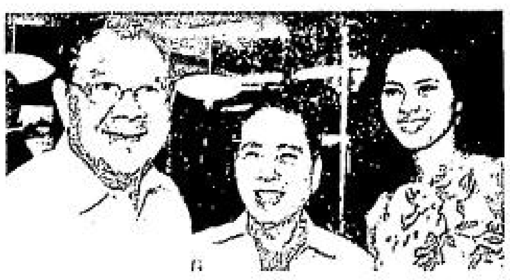
NCCA chair Ambeth Ocampo

VILLA Escudero's brilliant host, Ado Escudero

NENING Manahan

PATIS Tesoro's grandson Enzo

MANDARIN Oriental's director of communications Charisse Chuidian with Helen Ong and Marietha Holmgren


QUEZON City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Pitoy Moreno and Binibining Pilipinas-International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman

FORMER Colombian beauty queen Stella Marquez-Araneta

MEGAWORLD'S taipan Andrew Tan and Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista

SOCIETY GALS. Daisy Payumo, Rhodora Nograles and Emily Lopez

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

THAT NIGHT, *PALANGGAS*, ALL ROADS led to the popular Kusina Salud in Putol, San Pablo, Laguna, for the "Filipiniana dinner" that **Patis Tesoro** and her husband, lawyer **Tito T.**, gave to celebrate the birthday of super pals, **Marivic Vazquez** and **Jose Marie Treñas**.

In observance of the dress code, the chi-chi women came in terno, Maria Clara and *baro't saya*, which is Patis T.'s forte, *palanggas*, and the gentlemen came in barong, *camisa* and *malongs*.

In eye-catching outfits were **Rica Barcelona**, a collector of Philippine art and artifacts; **Jimmy Laya**, **Nening Manahan** and **Bambi Harper**.

Ken Esguerra of Ayala Museum and **Ino Manalo** represented the museum pack.

Iloilo City Mayor **Jerry Treñas** and wife **Rosalie**, and **Francis Treñas** jetted in from Iloilo.

John Silva came with **Jonathan Best**. Entrepreneur **Philip Tuazon** was the handsome escort of the birthday girl, natch.

Toti Villalon and **Mike Santos** chatted about preserving old houses.

Beautiful couple **Silvana Ancellotti D.** and hubby **Ramon Diaz** shared a table and loads of chat with civic-oriented businesswoman **Karen Santos**.

Next-door neighbor, **Ado Escudero** of the famous Villa Escudero, had everyone listening to his conversation on what "class and style is all about and politics," dahlings.

San Pablo sculptor **Carlito Ortiga** exhibited his extraordinary art works at the entrance of the fabulously lighted awesome house and super lush garden.

Chef extraordinaire **Pol Poblador**, **Nina Tesoro** and chef **Frank Rabara** created not only an enchanted ambiance, but topped the whole affair with divinely awesome Filipino menu, which included fresh noodles and bean sprouts, topped with petite *kalabasa* and *talong ukoy* and fresh Thai basil.

Also served were fern salad with organic tomatoes and red onions, topped with salted red eggs and *kesong puti* tempura.

Moreover, there were servings of grilled *samaral* and *talakitok* from the Dalahican Fish Port. They came with *ensaladang sili* and *laing*, dahlings.

Everyone agreed it was a wonderful memorable night of true pals, gorgeous nature, fab ambiance, excellent food and flowing wine, including cool Lambanog Cosmopolitan, *palanggas*.

Gateway to fine food

The rich taste of Mandarin Oriental's finest Asian cuisine dazzled Manille's partying elite during the grand opening of the Mandarin Oriental Café and Deli at the *trés* elegant Gateway Mall.

The ribbon-snipping ceremony was led by suave Araneta Group of Companies (AGC) chair **Jorge Araneta** and statuesque Colombian beauty queen **Stella Marquez-Araneta**.

Also in the ribbon-cutting were Mandarin Oriental Manila general manager **Helmut Gaisberger**, AGC executive vice president **Judy Araneta-Roxas** and Quezon City Mayor **Feliciano Belmonte**, no less, dahlings.

In his remarks, Jorge Araneta said: "This is truly a momentous event for both Gateway Mall and Mandarin Oriental Hotel. This time, our shopping-mall patrons will be able to enjoy the fine selection of innovative Asian dishes, offered by no other than Mandarin Oriental Café and Deli."

Outside the restaurant, guests dug into the delicatessen items, and were amazed at the cool features of the Oasis, with the awesome air-conditioned garden atrium inside the mall.

Hotshots who couldn't stop raving over the place included **Alberito** and **Emily Lopez**; **Cecile vda. de Mitra**; interior designer **Sonia Olivares** who did the eye-catching café interiors, who was with daughter, **Hanna**; **Ria Roxas Ojeda**; food connoisseur **Fil Juntereal**; **Grace Glory Go**; **Frankie** and **Marilen Tronqued Lagniton**; **Teddy Montelibano**; plus others too chi-chi to mention, dahlings.

Equestrian elite

Cosmo Manille's chi-chi set came in full force for the Duty Free Phils. Asian Chic Show-jumping Challenge held at the huge Polo fields of the upscale Alabang Country Club, *palanggas*.

Moi was told the competition was staged simultaneously in several Asian countries, under the tough international standards of the Federation Internationale Equestre.

The hardworking organizers—**Mitos Pacis Belofsky** and **Bettina Muñoz**— made sure that the Philippines hosted the event without a hitch, and what a success it was!

As expected, *palanggas*, our top equestrians galloped in full force for the coveted competition titles. Team Globe Platinum's world-class equestrienne **Toni Leviste** trotted in along with young rider **Bea Rocha** of Globe Platinum Calypso.

Others who participated were **Joker Arroyo**, fashion designer **Vittorio Barba**; hip riders **Erika Manosa** and **Gabby Herbosa**; up-and-coming young rider **Daniella Virata**; and pretty **Karen Pamintuan**, **Lorraine Reynolds** and **Alexis Cortes**.

Brilliant entrepreneur **Carissa Oledan Coscolluela** lent some of her magic and gave out tons of goodies for everyone, plus super chic prizes for the winners.

Cool Joker Arroyo was the big winner of the weekend, dahlings. She went home with arms full of goodies from Duty Free Phils., She also took home the Globe Platinum Trampoline Castle.

Chilling it out amid the elegance of the equestrian scene were Ayala Center's hardworking **Javi Hernandez**, with his slim equestrienne wife, **Teresa H.**, and their adorable son, **Iñigo**; Duty Free Phils. hotshot Michael Kho and pal Michael Chua; young restaurateurs **Vanna Calalang Severino** and **Bambi Meer**, plus others like them who galloped too fast for me to check them out, *palanggas*.

Marian procession

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion through its chair, the ultra-glam philanthropist **Imelda Cojuangco**, has announced that this year's procession in honor of Our Lady will be on Dec. 4, 3 p.m., starting at the Manila Cathedral.

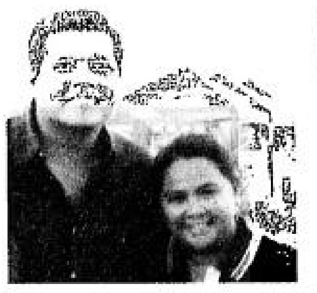
This year's *hermanos mayores* are **Justa Tantoco**, **Karen Macasaet** and renowned couturier **Bobby Novenario**.

The Hermanos Mayores' Mass will be at 2 p.m. on the same day, to be officiated by Archbishop **Gaudencio Rosales**.

The Cofradia will hold its annual first communion outreach on Dec. 3, 10 a.m., at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Cathedral for 500 children of the depressed areas of Manila.

RAISA and Rosalie Treñas

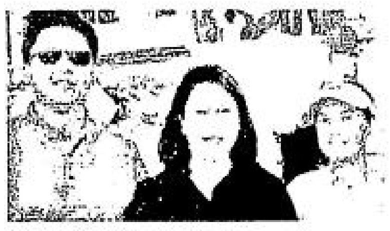
POPULAR interior designer Jonathan Matti

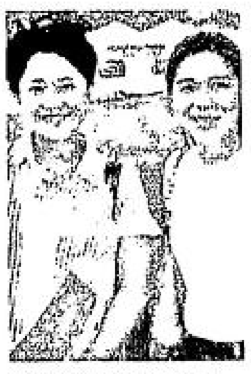

PASIG Rep. Dodot Jaworski and equestrienne Carissa Coscolluela

PHILIP Tuazon

JAY Cu-unjieng

EQUESTRIENNE-turned-architect Chinky Remulla-Shah, Team Globe Platinum's Toni Leviste and veteran rider Anna Sison


POPULAR young couple Gabby and Mara Oledan, and Yvette Llamas-Lopez


GLOBE Telecom's Cris Garcia and MJ Hyndman

THE CHAMP! Joker Arroyo receives championship honors from Duty Free Phils. hotshot GM Michael Kho.

ASIAN Games gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski receives her runner-up prize from Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes.

RESTAURATEUR Peter Jentes, Mandarin's GM Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin's executive assistant manager-food and beverages David Thomas, and Araneta Group of Companies chair Jorge Araneta

HOTSHOTS behind the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion. Seated: Thelma Gana, Bea Zobel, Meldy Cojuangco, Justa Tantoco, Karen Macasaet, Ces Manalo and Lulu Castañeda. Standing: Marietta Santos, Cita Lesaca, Pitang Lopez Tiongson, Estella Lopez, Mercy Tuazon, Rory Eizmendi, Nenuca Blardony, Vida Laqui, Bobby Novenario, Danny Dolor, Clifford Chua, Letty Syquia, Nene Leonor and Mila Hizon Roasa

HOLY GHOST College High School Class 1956 will hold its Golden Jubilee celebration in February on the Mendiola campus. Rehearsals start Dec. 10 hosted by the Silver Jubilarians, Class '81. Photo shows Dr. Mely Castillo-Bulmer, host of a reunion coinciding with her birthday celebration at the Penthouse of Ritz Tower. Fourth row (from left): Aida Zita-Reichert, Cristina Novenario-Eloriaga, Ofelia Bustos-Zarco, Estela Ablaza-Aldana and Cora Suntay. Second row: Remedios Francisco, Zenaida Manucat, Consuelo Apostol-Regino, Emily Carlota-Santiago. Front row: the hostess, Mely Castillo-Bulmer and Linda Lacson-Gomez

Christmas Holiday Bazaar ongoing till Jan. 6

GOINGS ON

ALI MALL AT THE ARANETA CENTER brings together its hippest labels, hard-to-find goodies and Christmas must-haves in one big holiday bazaar. Dubbed "Absolutely Christmas Holiday Bazaar," the event features a wide range of apparels, home accessories and beauty and body-care products, Christmas décor, scented candles, native crafts and other gift items. Participating shops include Penshoppe, Adidas, Solo, Freeway, Oxygen and Royal Sporting House. The holiday bazaar at the Ali Mall Exchange (G/F entrance near Rustan's Superstore), is ongoing until Jan. 6, 2006.

EXPO. The "Christmas Lifestyle Expo 2005," Dec. 2-4, at the World Trade Center will feature treasured photographs of the Father of Philippine Photography, Eduardo Masferre. The expo will also showcase food products, Asian handicrafts, furniture and home décor, cookware, spa and massage services, personal items, health and wellness products and services, clothes and accessories, tour packages, among others. Call 8738202/1198, 7838876, 0917-8382183, 0916-6973207, 0921-4552989 and 0927-5217760.

HOMECOMING. The Grand Ateneo Alumni Homecoming set for tomorrow will start with a Mass at 4:30 p.m. at the Church of Gesu. It will be followed by an evening of fellowship and fun activities at Ateneo de Manila High School. For tickets, call 4266081 or log on to www.ateneohomecoming.com.

EVENT. Communio et Missio and the Sweethearts of Christ, communities of love whose mission is to spread the good news of God's love and mercy, is holding the third in a series of events called "Soul'd Out" on Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m., at 313 Chaves Gardens, Cadena de Amor, Ayala Alabang. The event will feature the music of EloHymm and St. James Renewal Movement Praise. Admission is free. Call 6360255, or e-mail nancy_harel@globelines.com.ph.

FESTIVAL. The Sinukwan Festival of San Fernando, Pampanga will start tomorrow at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga. Co-presented by Robinsons Malls, Sinukwan will showcase the rich Kapampangan heritage in a series of cultural and special events. Opening day will feature an exhibit and photo contest. Song and dance fashion show is set for Dec. 4; cooking demo, Dec. 5; singing contest at 5 p.m., Dec. 6; Kapampangan Sereneta, Dec. 7; Lakan at Mutya ning Sinukwan at 5 p.m., Dec. 8. The events will be held at the mall's Plaza Arayat Atrium.

BOOK FAIR. Books Galore at student-friendly prices. From P10 and up, treasures from the private collections of writers and authors will be on sale on Dec. 4, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Lung Center Park near Quezon Memorial Circle, QC.

BAZAAR. Venture 7 will hold its 10th Christmas Bazaar 2005 on Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati. Beneficiaries of the project include Erda Pech (street children under Fr. Tritz), Phi Kappa Phi scholarship for the University of the Philippines, Makabata Foundation, Amade Philippines, Center for Migrant Youth, and Tahanan Mapagpala ng Inmaculada Concepcion (Home for the Aged). Call 8103307, 8188468, 8954707 and 3723084.

SEMINAR. Learn some *tipid* and budget management tips from former beauty queens like Peachy Sacasas-Alimurong, Maricar Mendoza-Du and Maria Isabel Lopez-Yokohama in a seminar on Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Character Building Foundation Center for Learning, 2/F FILIA Corporate Center, 4347 Valdez St., Barangay Poblacion, Makati City. Admission is free. Call CBF Office at 8905321 or 0927-3903183.

MUSICAL. GCF Marikina Valley, a satellite of Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Ortigas Center, will present "Magnify", a Christmas musicale by Daniel Smith and Mark Condon, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Dec. 10, at the GCF MV Auditorium. Admission is free. Call 2491672/1671.

NOEL Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shopping Expo at the World Trade Center will be held 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Dec. 21-23. Call 6870654/2955 or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph.

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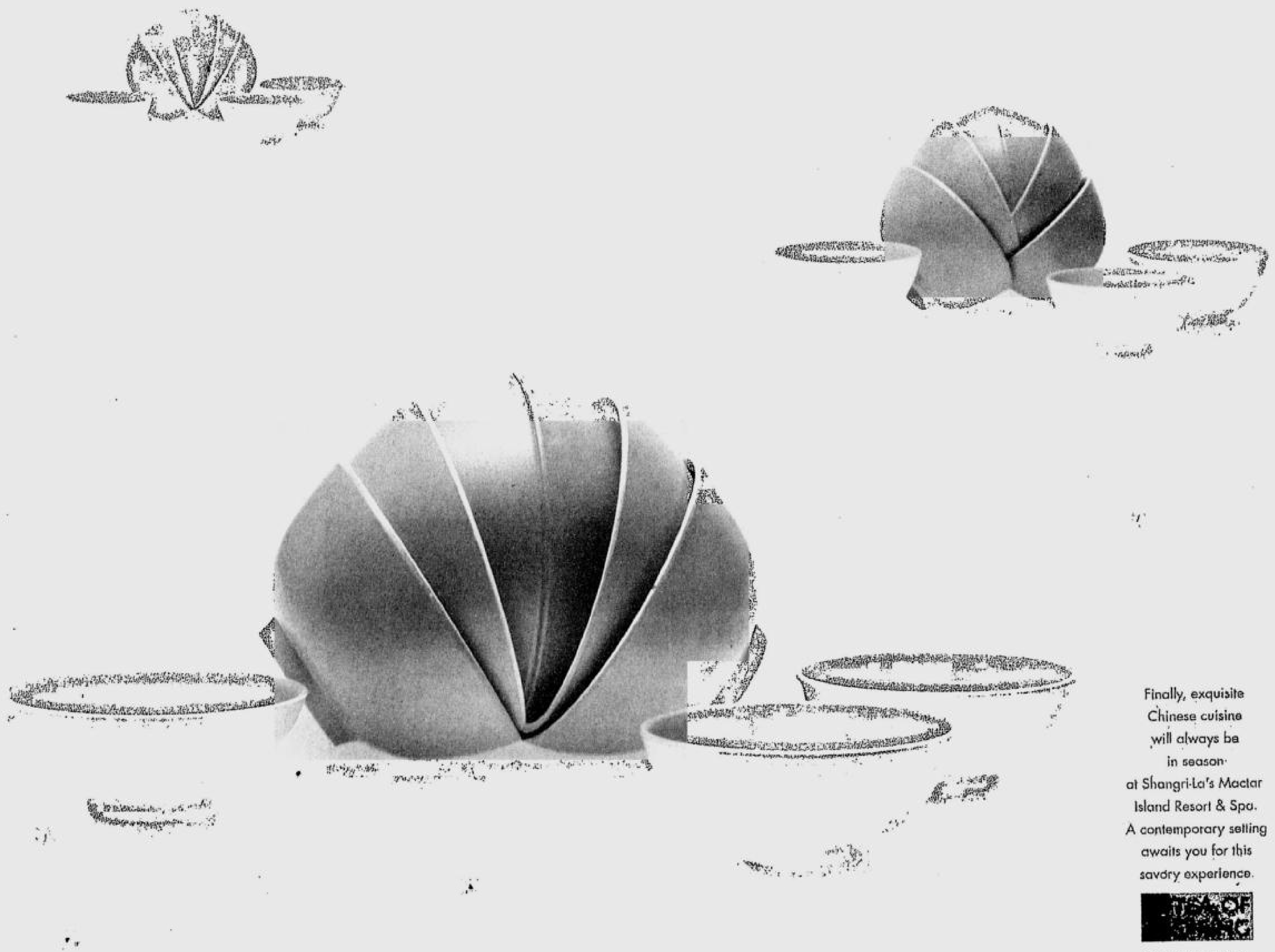

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Subtly sexy

UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE. Pia in a structured velvec black jacket, gold scarf worn as belt and slim-fit low-rise denim

TELEVISION'S "IT" GIRL PIA GUANIO channels the subtly sexy look perfectly for Tango's new holiday collection. The overall look is straightforward and sensual without being turn-off revealing.

A palette of black, brown, mauve, turquoise and moss is emphasized. Construction is key in military jackets, adorned tops, Edwardian-inspired tops, bolero jackets, pencil pants and peasant skirts. Also showcased are crisp seamed pants, lush embroidered denims, country cropped jackets, extended cuff sleeves and fine-knit fabrics.

Tango is at Glorietta 3, Ayala Commercial Center; 3/L, Bldg. B, SM Megamall and SM Annex, SM North Edsa.

SEXY SIREN. Pia wears military-green slim pants, military-cut khaki jacket and knit bolero worn as blouse.

RELAXED sophistication. Pia Guanio in white Edwardian blouse, black bolero jacket, slim-fit denim and buckled jacket

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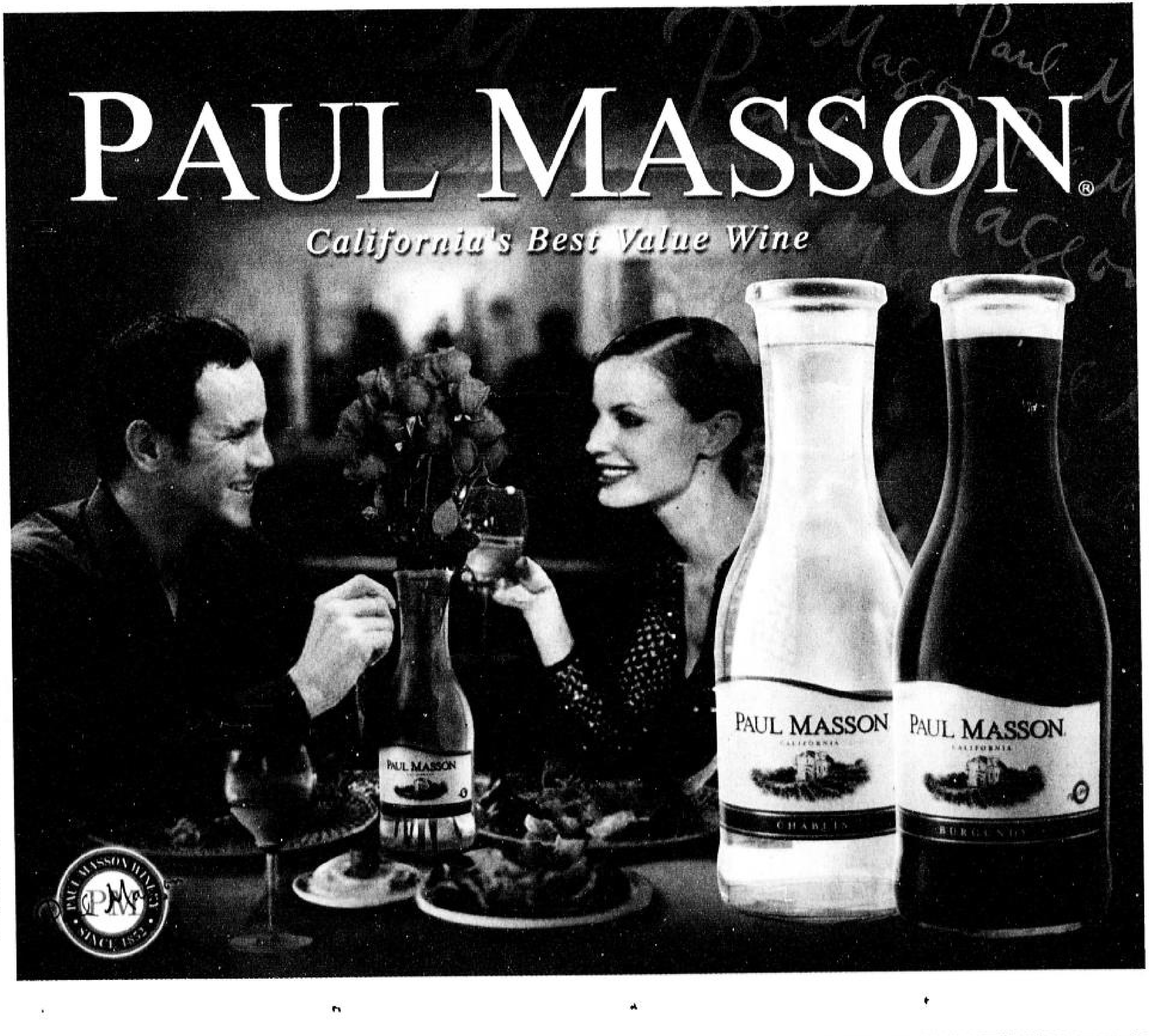
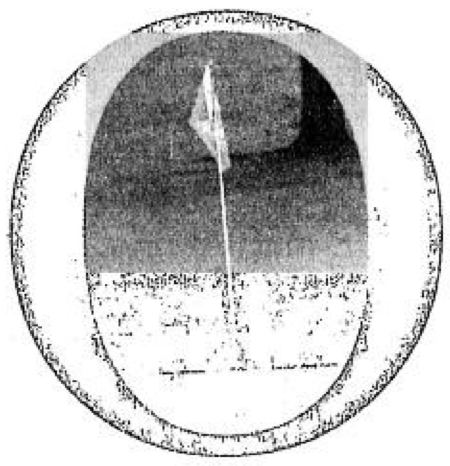


MVP CUP BECKONS

200 TOP GUNS



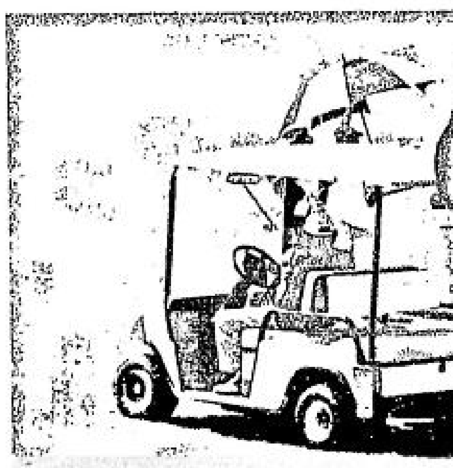
FOR A WHOLE day of golfing fun and a cool evening of eats and treats never been seen in a long time for a friendly golf tournament. As early as 6am last week, November 22, the eager golfers trooped to the Manila Golf Club off McKinley Road in the tony neighborhood of Forbes Park, to sign up and play at this now traditional MVP Cup 2005. On its fourth year now, the tourney was attended by some of the country's Chief Executives and Business directors like **Johnip Cua of Procter and Gamble: HSBC's Warner Manning; Rafael Perez de Tagle, Jr. of Metro Rail Development Corp; Sandy Romualdez of Philippine Daily Inquirer; Indren Naidoo, CFO and President Bobby Madrid of Prulife; Reynaldo Wycoco the NBI Chief; Menardo Mateo of Phillips Electric; David Balangue Chair of Sycip Gorres; Varun Berry President of Pepsico; Bert Lina of Lina Group of Companies** and many more like them.

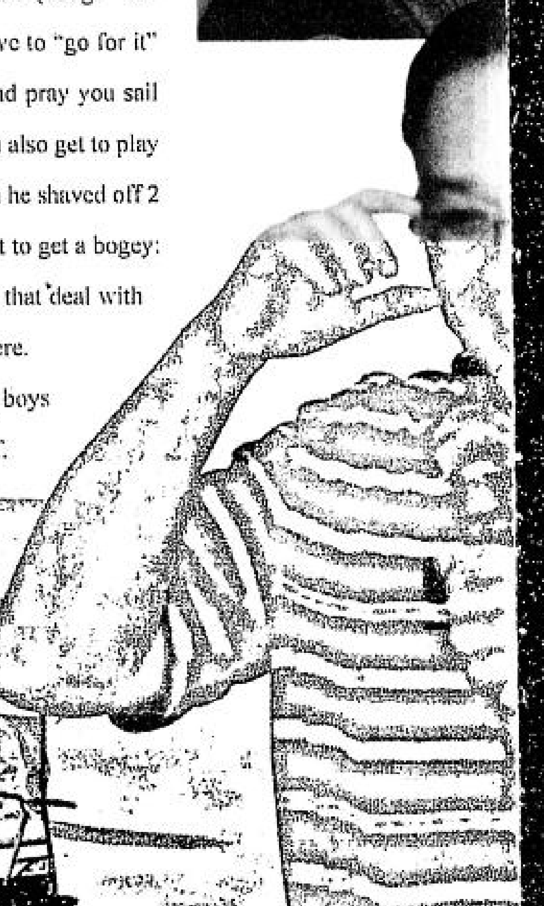
President and CEO of **PLDT and Smart POLLY NAZARENO** led the morning group and shot a Ceremonial tee off down the lush fairway as the top kahuna golfers took their places at their assigned tee boxes and swung away at their drivers at the bang of the shotgun.

The lucky players took away such goodies as a brand new Odyssey 2 ball putter, the most coveted putter in the golf world; shirts and caps; a Mizuno locker bag; a box of Titleist golf balls; the useful magnetic ball marker; all weather golf umbrellas and other surprises. At all the Par 3's there were cars to be won by hole in one hitters (BMW; Honda CRV and the Mazda 6). No one was too lucky so at the Awards Party, two Ford Focus cars were raffled off to the delight of the happy golfers. As if this were not enough, there were prizes and "toys" given out to the gamers in each of the 18 holes.

They say the game of golf is like the game of life: you manage the course by playing it smart (dodge 'em hazards and bunkers) or at times you just have to "go for it" (carry the water hazard, use your 3 wood and pray you sail that ball 250 yards to the green) and then you also get to play the guy who thinks no one was looking when he shaved off 2 strokes from his score in hole number 14 just to get a bogey: so you make a note to yourself: may not do that deal with him this time, shucks, I got double bogey there.

Here in pictures are how the big boys played and enjoyed the game of life and golf.





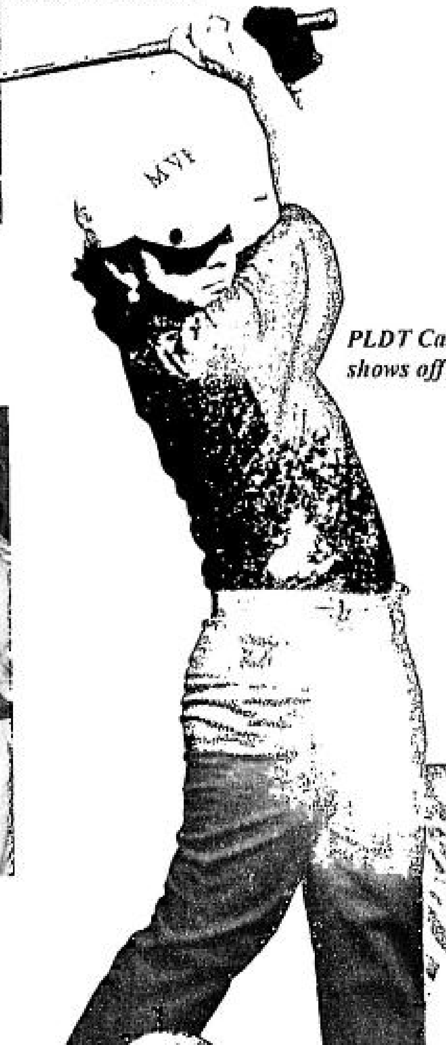
PLDT Directors Chris Young, Chief Financial Advisor; Oscar Reyes, PLDT Director; Polly Nazareno, PLDT/SMART President & CEO; Shigeru Yoshida, PLDT Director & Eric Alberto, SVP PLDT Corporate Business Group.

At the Awards Night (l-r) PLDT Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, Indren Naidoo & SVP Corporate Business Group Head Eric R. Alberto.

Cesar TiuTan,-CEO Mitsui OSK with Eric Alberto.

Arthur Tugade, Chairman Transglobal with Eric Alberto.

Sandy Prieto Romualdez of Philippine Daily Inquirer reads her line.



PLDT CashMan Head Ditas Tabuena shows off fine form.

Sommersult President Manny Aquino plans his next move.

MVP congratulates winners during the Awards Night.

Peter Coyuito of First Life Guarantee with MVP and Eric Alberto.

MVP with Rafael Perez de Tagle, Cesar Enriquez, Allied Bank's President, Rey Maclang & Eric Alberto.

CitiBank VP Jerry Lopez

PLDT SVP Eric Alberto presents the array of crystal trophies.

Perry Uy of RCBC with PLDT's Cesar Enriquez.

HSBCs Warner Manning surprises guests by announcing PLDT Chairman MVP was chosen "Management Man of the Year 2005" by the Management Association of the Philippines.

Tony Pio de Roda, Country Manager of Nortel chats it up with MVP.

The Presidential Drive— PLDT/SMART President Polly Nazareno at the Ceremonial Tee-Off.

Conditioner found for unruly hair

PEACOCK Colors Lime Martini Room Spray, P360

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

AT LAST, THERE IS NOW AN affordable solution to control big, bushy and coarse hair. This problem is a major one among Filipinas as a lot of us have unruly hair.

I have never had a problem with Sunsilk shampoos as they always had a variant for whatever hair fiasco I was going through.

Cream Silk conditioners, on the other hand, never had one good enough to tame or soften my over-processed hair, that's why I have never written about any of their variants—until now.

I road-tested their new conditioner called Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner and was very impressed! It only costs P189 for the 200-ml tube and smells like a mixture of berries.

My hair wasn't only easy to comb after the treatment, it was also very manageable and really soft. Flyaway ends behaved and dry strands were shiny as well.

What makes this variant different from the others is that it contains Vitamin E and Silk Satin essence that revitalizes dry hair and locks in moisture on each strand. Limit the treatment to the hair strands though because when applied on the scalp, it gets greasy too fast, which leads to a lot of falling hair like most hair conditioners.

Those with oily but sensitive skin know how hard it is to find the correct face wash. Manufacturers just assume that those with sensitive skin could use the formulas for dry skin.

Oily skin facial cleansers are designed to be strong and eliminate grease for the long haul. Those with sensitive oily skin have to live with the sting and itchy feel of the mildest cleanser they can find. Those designed for regular sensitive skin makes them break out and shine within the hour after washing.

> The new variant contains Vitamin E and Silk Satin essence to revitalize dry hair and lock in moisture

P650 for a set

Cetaphil, the drugstore cleanser everyone uses (from waitress to Hollywood star), has made their oily skin cleanser available in the Philippines. It gently washes off dirt and oil without disrupting the protective moisture layer. Those with oily skin do not get breakouts and there is no greasy film left behind.

Scents for cold months

Colder months call for sexier and heavier scents. This season we can get away with using our evening fragrance for day. Those of you who love vanilla-based scents will smolder in sex appeal with scents like Armani Sensi (smells like honey panna cotta), Thierry Mugler Angel Innocent, Dior Addict, La Prairie's Silver Rain and Avon Tomorrow.

Those who prefer floral will enjoy Stella by Stella McCartney (a mixture of rose and amber) and Annick Goutal's Passion (a mix of jasmine, vanilla and ylang ylang).

CREAM SILK Conditioner

Bazaar finds

Are you done with your Christmas shopping? I have hit the bazaars with my friends to scout for bargains and found some products that are great in the sense that they seem more expensive than they actually are.

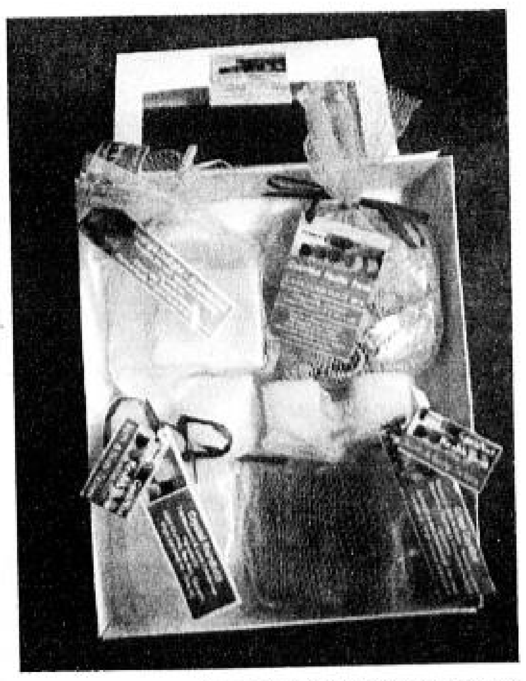
There are room sprays in very classy frosted glass bottles that do not stain clothes so they can actually double as cologne. Caution: Those with sensitive skin should refrain from spraying it on their skin directly as they may get allergic reactions.

From this company called Fibermill, there are two variants. Sigh is the bestseller; it smells clean and very subtle. Then there's Citrus Drop, which smells like lemon candies. Both are P260 each.

Fibermill also has a set in a canvas pouch containing extra virgin coconut oil lotion, goat's milk soap and extra virgin coconut and peppermint foot scrub, which all smell yummy and leave skin silky soft, for P650. You may buy the items individually.

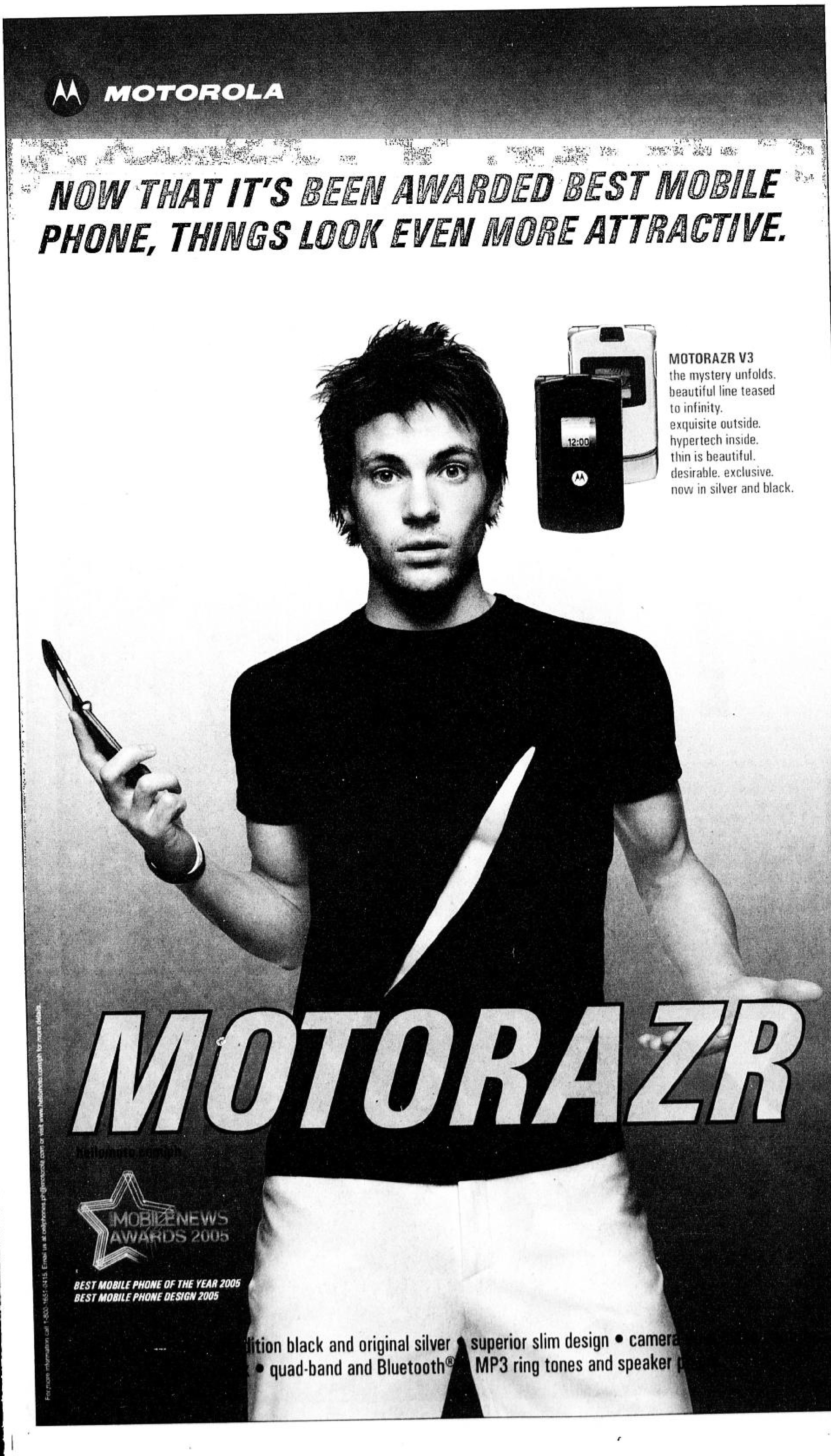
Another room spray I found that does not stain clothes is Peacock Colors Lime Martini, at P360. It smells like Lime Margaritas and the scent stays on. The bottle is also very classy so you can display it on your dresser. Visit www.phildirect.ph/peacockcolors or call 8022307.

For soap lovers, I found soap jellies from Coconut Health Farms which only cost P60. I like the Orange Delight for exfoliating and whitening and the Green Cocktail for slimming and detoxifying. They are pretty in any bathroom and smell great. Call or text 0917-5608109.



COCONUT Health Farm Bath Jellies, P60 per pouch

P260 each



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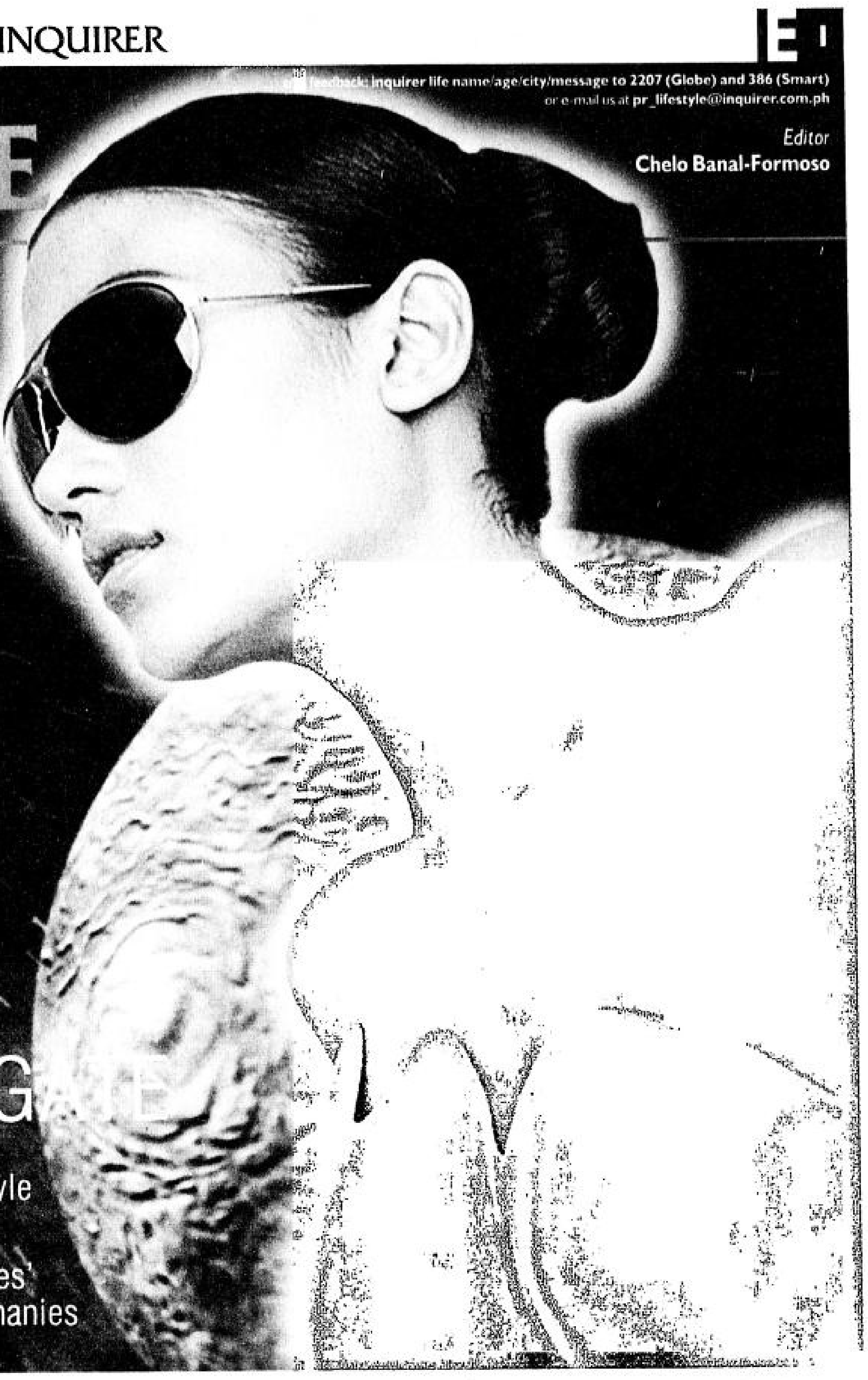

coming of age

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PROBE
Myrza Sison's
meteoric rise
p. F1

NAVIGATE
your way into
space-age style
p. E2

EXPLORE
Puey Quiñones'
fashion epiphanies
p. F2

This season, may you have
everything your heart desires.
A
MOST
MAGICAL
TIME
OF THE
YEAR
Rustan's

SILVER watches by Kenneth Cole (P5,700); Diesel (P8,100); and DKNY (P7,000), all from L-Time Studio, PowerPlant Mall

EARRINGS by Envy @ Firma (P250); Cybershot T7 by Sony (P31,500)

METAL hubcap earrings (P1,450), and bracelet (P2,450), both by Kenneth Cole

"PARTY Gemi
(P17,950)

Space-age silvers

SILVER aviators by Police, Sarabia Optical (P4,900)

By Cheche V. Moral

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT. METALS flicker, and the glow travels past the ages. The Age of Metals that supplied man with the tools for surviving the prehistoric age may be long past, but the contemporary man continues to subsist in the heat radiated by metals. This heat is no more felt than in modern-day fashions.

Metallics aren't a trend—they always exude an essence of the new. They take fresh, nontraditional incarnations by the seasons. This time, they come in sleeker and cleaner lines—in eyewear, women's jewelry, watches—somewhat futuristic, a bit space-age, just the right measure of modern edge. Each solitary glint lends a sparkle that's certain to cast "holiday" in the drabbest of outfits.

The key to wearing metallics is making sure not to rival your tinsel-bedecked tree: One standout metallic piece with an understated dress, or a simple pair of dark denims with glittery heels.

But there are no hard-and-fast rules, of course. Simply follow your inner sheen, and look straight into the light. The future is now.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

SILVER sling-backs by Kate Spade (P18,500)

METALLIC hobo bag by Kenneth Cole (P9,450)

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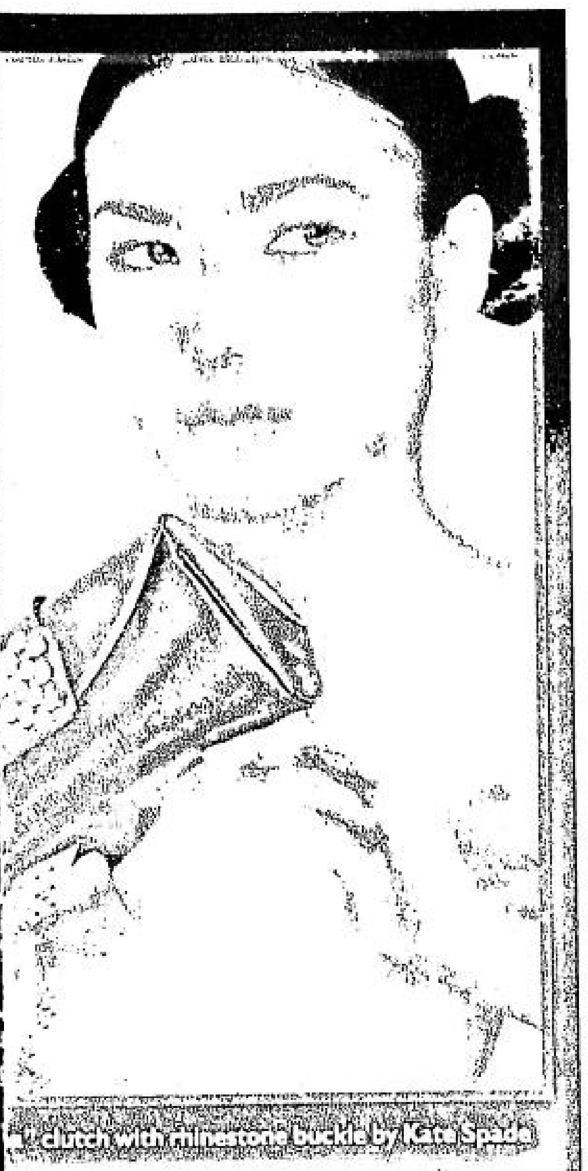


" clutch with rhinestone buckle by Kate Spade

"... very subjective in the field of interior design because style and taste are constantly evolving, as influenced by one's environment."
—Chat Fores, interior designer

Coming of age is . . .

Compiled by Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

"... when one has finally discovered and embraced his or her innate sense of style. It's about coming into your own, for all to see, that you have finally arrived."
—Bianca Valerio, fashion model/host

"... when you look at yourself in the mirror and see all the lines on your face as marks of character and not as flaws."
—Jeoff Moran, makeup artist, Emphasis Salon

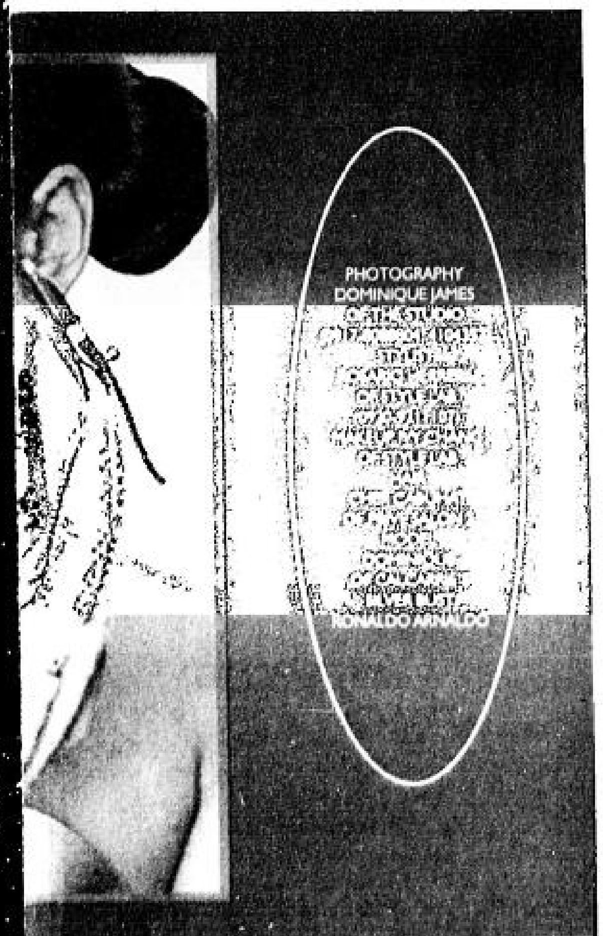
"... when learning about your husband's affair doesn't enrage you but rather gives you the license to go out and buy that coveted Chloe bag."
—Salome Uy, entrepreneur

"... recognizing your true passion and living it the rest of your life."
—James Reyes, designer

COMING/F4

Shine brightly with well-chosen and well-placed futuristic touches

RIVINGTON "Melanie" Anthracite bag by Kate Spade (P19,450)



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DOMINIQUE JAMES
OF THE STUDIO
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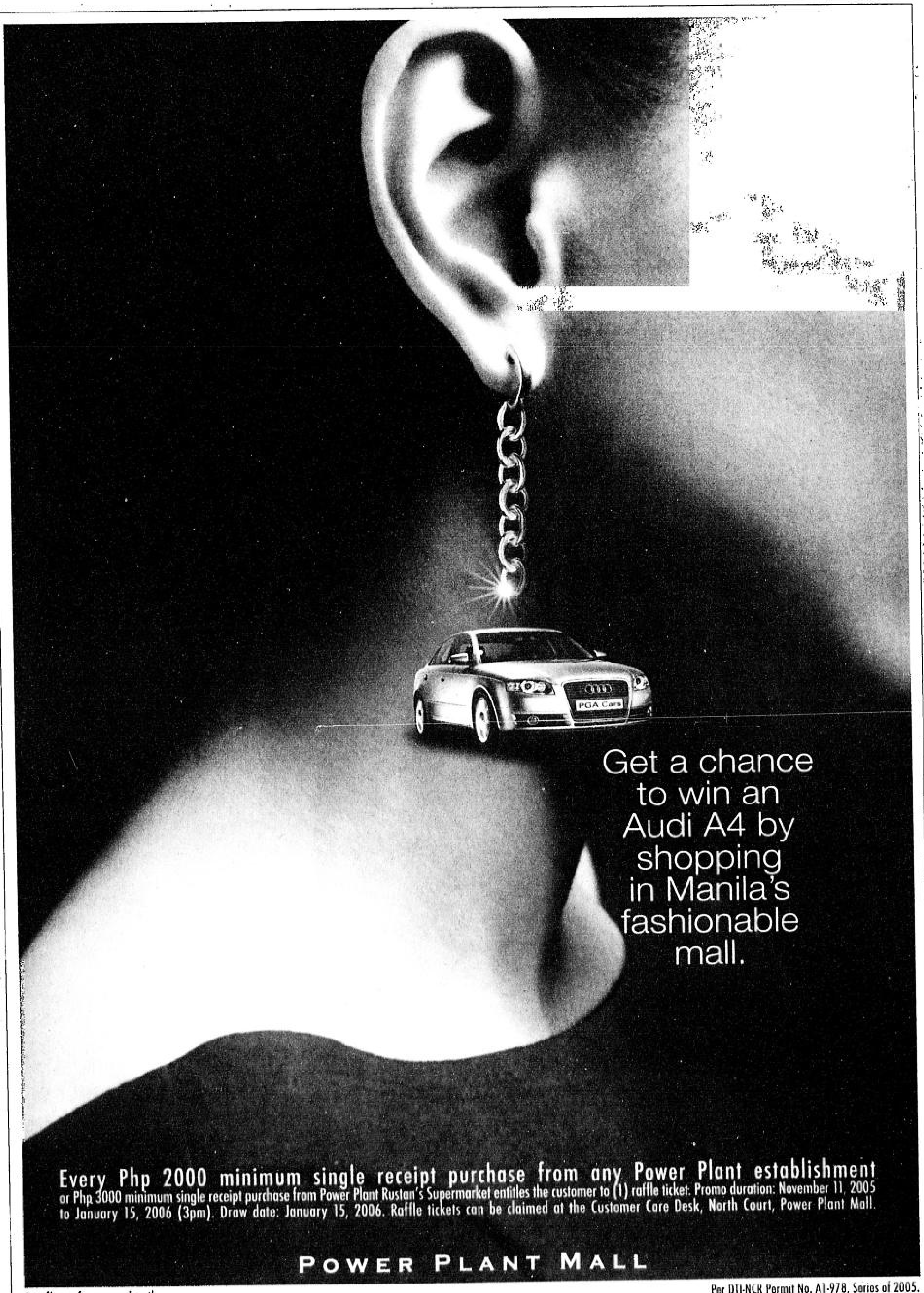

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Quantum style

Be a fashion sage at any age

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

YOU CAN BE STYLISH AT any age! Consider these five women of different ages who always look fashionable in any situation or occasion.

Although they're the very women who can trigger the green-eyed monster in all of us (admit it, don't you just want to hate them for their natural good looks and great fashion sense—not to mention, Hermes Kelly bag?), they can also serve as inspiration so that we may strive to be the best we can be.

Or in this case, look the best we can look no matter how many birthdays we've celebrated or, uh, conveniently forgotten.

Well, thank your lucky stars because these style-mavens are more than willing to share their know-how on dressing well. So, no need to wonder how you can look like them. Just read on and learn about their not so little pearls (the South Sea variety, mind you) of fashion wisdom.

In and out

"You can't be stylish if you don't feel beautiful inside," says Lingling King. True to form, the 42-year-old stunner radiates an inner glow that enhances her fine features and ultra-toned physique.

Effortlessly chic best describes her style of dressing. She likes to keep things simple and favors easy, relaxed clothing. She usually dons jeans (her closet is chock-full of these staples) and T-shirts for casual days. For evenings out, she relies on a black dress for a touch of glamour.

Page-turner

Always dressed simply but appropriately, 38-year-old Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez aims to look polished while deviating from the run-of-the-mill by infusing fun, colorful accessories into her wardrobe.

The youthful mother-of-four believes that 30somethings should make an effort to dress according to the occasion and their age. "We lead a certain lifestyle so it follows that we should adapt everything, including the way we dress, to the way we live," she wisely counsels.

She warns that certain pieces like a micro-mini skirt might be hard to pull off, as one must have a certain sense of dignity at this stage. But then again, there are age-friendly versions for the more mature women.

Tweetie says that clothes should not hug but just skim the body. "You can still look sexy and sensual in a more subtle manner," she adds.

Corporate chic

Power dressing takes on a totally new meaning when the woman involved is the dynamic president and CEO of First Quadrant Philippines, Inc. Thirty-six-year-old Doyee Tumpalan redefines the typical corporate look such as classic, conservative suits in neutral colors by dressing in ultra-fashionable clothing (think Pucci or Balenciaga or structured suits by designer Jojie Lloren) that reflects her style, personality and incidentally, stature.

"I've always been into fashion and I've always made it a point to dress according to my own style, which is somewhat against the norm," says the model-thin career woman. Ever the true-blue fashionista, she relies on her instincts and moods when choosing her outfits.

Fun, fearless fashionista

Manika Yujuico is possibly one of the best-dressed 20somethings in Manila. The 22-year-old student and bag designer (she just started creating a line of colorful beaded/sequined satchels) has the uncanny ability of mixing and matching distinct pieces that look good together.

Although she thinks she's too young to have developed a particular style of dressing, she always manages to make a strong statement with her wardrobe choices. Manika says, "I like to experiment and go by instinct. The outfits I like the most are the ones randomly put together."

The comfort zone

Twenty-eight year old Christina Dragon-Locsin always manages to blend comfort with fashion. For instance, her typical day-in-the-mall outfit consists of flats so her feet don't hurt after walking around and a light jacket to shield her from drafts caused by industrial type air-cons.

But the ultimate key to her personal style is the fact that she basically wears whatever she feels like donning. "If there's a casual event, I'll wear something a bit dressy if I feel like it. Or I can dress down by wearing a wife beater, cargos and flip-flops," she says.

Her advice to aspiring fashionistas? Simple: don't try too hard and always dress according to your age.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Lingling's style tips:

- Always look neat.
- Have one good accessory—a nice bag, pearl choker or a pair of diamond earrings—that can carry your whole outfit, be it jeans and a basic tee, a gown or a dress.
- Have a nice attitude.

LINGLING KING looks effortlessly chic in all-white. For the shoot, she opted to wear a BCBG top, Citizens for Humanity jeans, her orange Kelly bag and a lustrous Paspaley South Sea pearl choker. Shot on location in Figaro.

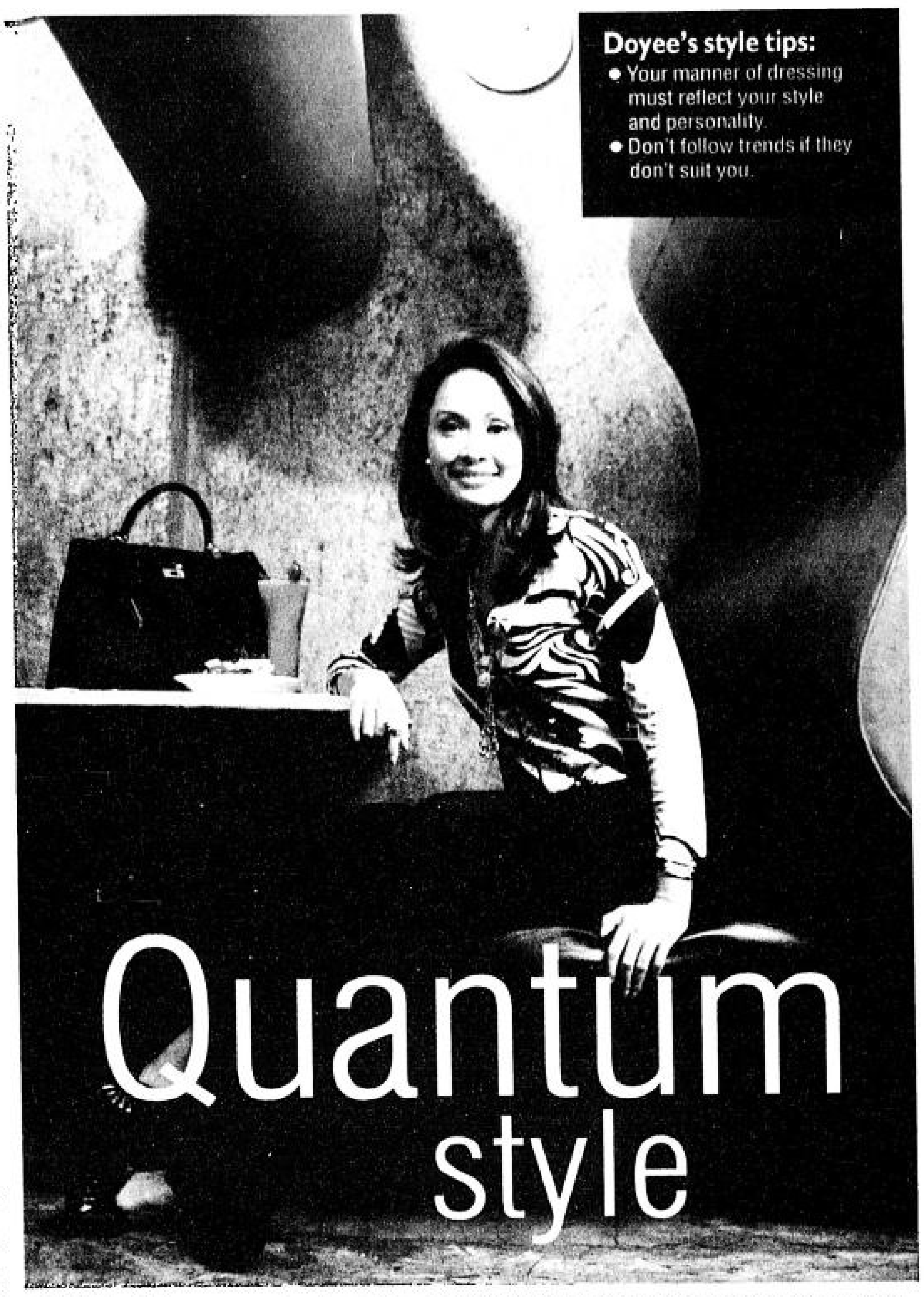
Tweetie's must-haves:

- A well-fitting jacket
- A good-sized pair of pearl earrings
- Accessories to accentuate a basic wardrobe

"I've always been drawn to color but I use basic pieces so as not to look too fancy or busy," says Tweetie. For the shoot, she is clad in her basic uniform of slacks and a basic top, which she accentuated with baby-blue ballerina flats and a colorful choker from her own Ice Crystals collection. Shot on location in Fully Booked.

Doyee's style tips:

- Your manner of dressing must reflect your style and personality.
- Don't follow trends if they don't suit you.



DOYEE redefines power dressing with a colorful Pucci top, Balenciaga slacks, Hermes Kelly bag and Sergio Rossi killer heels. Shot on location in Cibo

Christina's fave shopping haunts:

- Topshop
- Bazaars
- Shoemart ("It can be such a haven for fab finds.")
- Manouk by Ria de Borja

CHRISTINA dons her typical mall outfit of a light jacket, knit top, jersey gauchos and comfy flats. Shot on location in Aranaz

PHOTOGRAPHY
CHRISTIAN HALILI (0917-8252082)
STYLING ERIC PE BENITO
HAIR AND MAKEUP JEOFF MORAN
OF EMPHASIS SALON (8980818)
FOR TWEETIE GONZALEZ,
MANIKA YUJUICO AND CHRISTINA DRAGON-LOCSIN;
KEN (0920-2918895) AND ROMAN
(0917-3968250) FOR LINGLING KING
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE POWER PLANT MALL,
THE HOME OF FASHIONABLE MANILA
THANKS TO MIRA, ERWIN
AND MALOU PINEDA

MANIKA'S quirky chic ensemble is perfect for fashionable 20somethings. Her fun, funky mix includes a Greyhound top, a Topshop mini worn over Topshop leggings, a bright yellow Prada chain bag and a cuff she bought from a flea market in Cambodia. Shot on location in Topshop

Manika's style tips:

- Always be appropriate. Consider the situation and dress accordingly.
- Be comfortable. It may be a cliché but it's true. If you're not comfortable, it will show.
- Draw attention to your face

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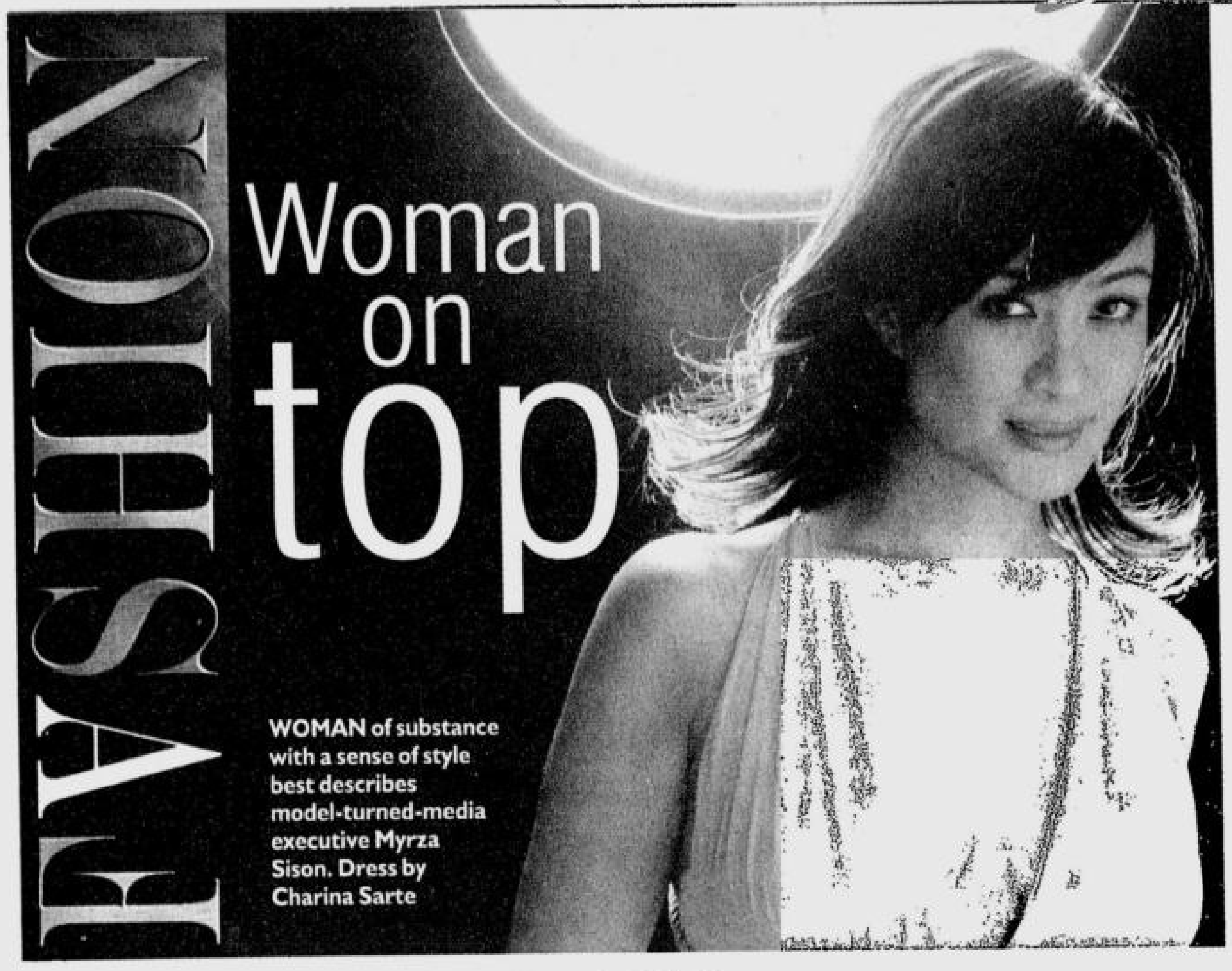

Woman on top

Myrza Sison assumes the editorship of Marie Claire Philippines after a rather parabolic career course

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EDGE OF LIGHT STUDIO
(8904611, 8994823)
STYLING DONNA CUNA-PITA
HAIR AND MAKEUP
JING MONIS/
PROPAGANDA

WOMAN of substance with a sense of style best describes model-turned-media executive Myrza Sison. Dress by Charina Sarte

By Alex Y. Vergara

WORKING FOR A media outfit was the last place on Myrza Sison's mind while taking up statistics several years ago. Yet the former model now finds herself on top of the competitive and crowded world of glossies as editor in chief of Marie Claire.

The French title's Philippine edition is the newest name to join Summit Media's growing stable of magazines, which includes Cosmopolitan, FHM, Yes!, Preview, Men's Health and Seventeen.

Before Marie Claire, Sison was editor in chief of Cosmo, the first ever foreign mag to have a Manila edition; this was in 1997. Her transition from model to journalist/media executive began two years earlier as fashion editor of Preview, Summit Media's pioneering effort in 1995.

"It was quite a big leap for me back then," says Sison, over dinner at her favorite café in Makati. "I didn't really know what I was going to do. I had an aptitude for writing, but I couldn't say if it was innate."

On top of her duties at Marie Claire, which debuted on newsstands last month with meaty news features and investigative reports atypical of most glossies, Sison is also editorial director of Summit Media.

Her magazine career wasn't premeditated. It resulted from a series of seemingly unrelated events since high school.

Since her dad owns Booksale, the young Sison and her four siblings had unlimited access to books and back issues of almost every foreign magazine, from Seventeen to Cosmopolitan, Life to National Geographic, Vogue to, yes, Marie Claire. The enterprising coed even rented out magazines to her dorm mates in college.

"I was really a Seventeen fanatic when I was a teenager," she says with amusement. "But I knew the personality of each magazine because I read all of them."

Sison also showed a knack for writing, which began much earlier when she won a comic-strip writing contest at age six. She was also a member of the school paper throughout elementary and high school.

Road to journalism

In other words, she had the makings of a journalist. Sison's dad, however, had other plans for his first child. As it was then the height of the Marcos regime, it was quite understandable if the imagination of not a few concerned parents went on overdrive.

"My dad thought all writers would suffer because of the dictatorship," says Sison. "Thus, he dissuaded me from becoming a journalist. Instead, he encouraged me to pursue the sciences."

After spending high school at the prestigious Manila Science High School, Sison took up statistics at the University of the Philippines. Although she hated the course back then, she now credits it and her exposure to various sciences for helping her convey her thoughts in an organized manner.

Sison continued to unwittingly prepare for a magazine career while working in Singapore. As one of the region's top models, she often hung out with the city

WOMAN/ F2

preview
P75
premiere issue 1995
models' secret lives
fashion that's fun
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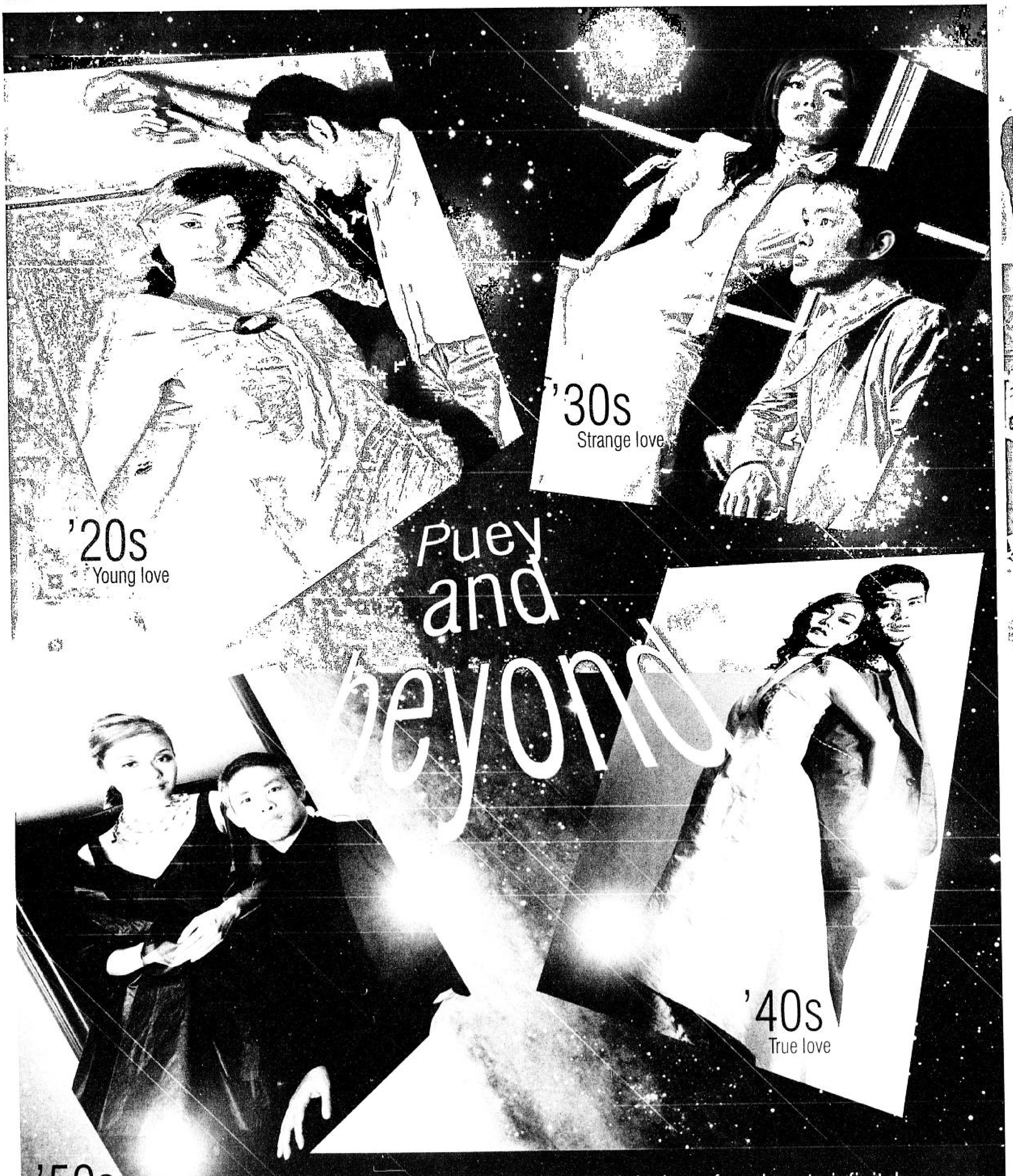

Fall in love with Puey Quiñones' designs, from here to infinity!

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

I FELL IN LOVE WITH PUEY Quiñones' clothes the minute I wore one. This was when I commissioned him to design a little black for me to wear to the Philippine Tatler's Best Dressed event.

I knew he was the perfect designer to shock the social set. I was just bored with the glittery party frocks, bustiers and slinky dresses I had been cocooning into.

Don't get me wrong—they look stunning on just about anyone, but stunning was not the look I was going for anymore (well, at least for a while). "Contra-distinct" was more like it.

True enough, the little black dress turned not so little, after all. From a pleated silk fabric in coal, he made a wrap-around dress with a wing-like design on the back, a knot on the left side of the chest and a second knot on the right side just before the hem.

It was operatic, avant-garde and modern. I loved it! Apparently, so did more than a dozen of the social set that asked me for Puey's contact number that night.

His phone hasn't stopped ringing since. From peachy debutantes to modern-day brides to nagging fashionistas (like Tim and me), Puey's designs are ever-changing.

His imagination has taken him to ultimate possibilities—he made me a Judy Jetson futuristic cocktail dress with a "Pinoy" twist, a mermaid gown in wallpaper pattern topped with a dirty white shrug with humongous ribbon closure, a denim cone-shaped dress with a white tulle clown's collar and recently a white one-shoulder mushroom gown with a matching turban. And just like love, the more you wear his clothes, the more you'll fall for them.

But like any relationship, it is not perfect. There were times when I did not like what he designed for me. Once, a dress he made with chiffon pieces attached to the dress fell off. I was broken-hearted.

But I believe that when you truly love someone, you communicate and give them a second chance. And unlike some egoistic designers who will give all the excuses in the world to camouflage their mistakes, Puey says sorry and offers to make another dress.

Fashion performance

Puey is now busy preparing for his fashion cum performance art show, "Swell." It has taken Puey, Mega magazine's creative director Michael Salientes and fashion show director Melvin Mojica six months to prepare this feat.

"We wanted to do something unconventional, theatrical and to express what I feel," says the designer. "I'm just tired of seeing the tank top tribe in Greenbelt, I want to give the market an option, something different but still beautiful."

Different is an understatement once you've seen his designs. Inspired by the East and by Bencab's painting, "Sabel" (Filipiniana meets Japanese), his voluminous skirts in Koryo silk are paired with tailored jackets. Knotted men's shirts are matched with military jacket and cargo pants. The slimming serpentina gowns are perfect for black-tie events. Topped with a gargantuan wrap, the gowns are jaw-dropping.

For the faint-hearted, Puey has designed a small collection named Vado for The Ramp in Crossings Department Store. "I hope to reach more clients by designing for The Ramp. Maybe the tank top tribe will start layering with some of my pieces," he muses.

In the world of "beautiful" clothes and RTW clones, Puey's designs may somewhat be described as deviant. But to his cult following, (KC Concepcion, Heart Evangelista, Tim Yap, Celine Lopez, Angelique Villaraza, Astrud Crisologo, Mariko Jacinto, to name a few) they are sheer poetry. Something you expect from a designer with a cute name but with anything but cute designs.

Swell, a collection of works by Puey Quiñones showcasing Jul B. Dizon jewelry, happens 6:30 tonight at A. Venue Residences (showroom) Gen. Luna St., Makati Ave., Makati City. This is in cooperation with Freixenet, Café Bola, and co-presented by Mega magazine, Koryo silk; The Ramp at Crossings. Hair by L'Oreal, makeup by Patrick Rosas and creative direction by 360 degrees and Carmina Sanchez is executive producer.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY
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(0917-8900171)
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(0916-7763098)
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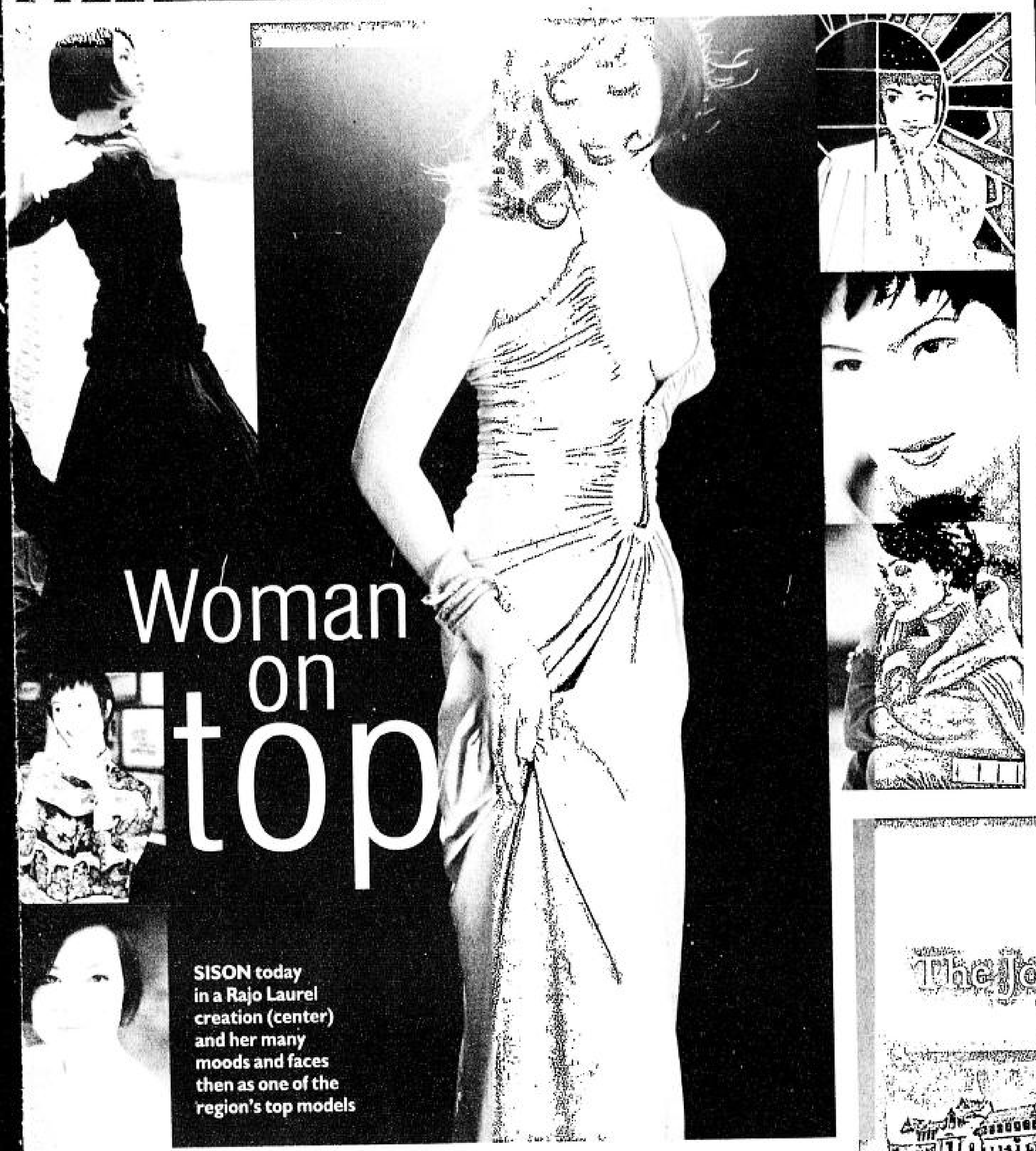
CLAIRE DIOKNO
(0927-3404699)
HAIR
RICKY DIOKNO
MODELS
MICHELLE SEE
& JAYJAY CHAN

Woman on top



SISON today in a Rajo Laurel creation (center) and her many moods and faces then as one of the region's top models

From page F1

state's leading women's magazine editors. Their conversations, of course, often led to work-related concerns.

"Little did I know that I was already imbibing life in a magazine," she says. "They provided me with a great deal of insight."

These and other women she met along the way became Sison's sources of strength and inspiration when Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng, publisher of Summit Media, finally offered her the top job at Cosmo. From being a fashion editor, she suddenly found herself in charge of everything in a glossy with a distinct readership summed up as "fun, fearless, fashionista."

"I've always been a Marie Claire girl," she says. "I've always been drawn and inspired by struggles waged by strong women featured in its pages. They exude beauty that comes from within. But I also know the Cosmo readers from life [itself]. They're the Filipinas we see and interact with everyday."

The venture was a calculated risk, as there was no women's magazine in the Philippines back then which openly tackled love, relationships and concerns about sex as openly and as boldly as Cosmo is doing today. Now that the magazine is still going strong on its eighth year, earlier doubts about its viability have been banished.

Mission

On a personal note, Sison left her comfort zone in Preview and waded through unfamiliar waters because Cosmo offered her a bigger platform.

"I felt I had a mission to help the Filipina so she can lead an amazing and fulfilled life," says Sison in retrospect. "It's not all about sex. If anything, it's all about taking control of one's destiny, of being an active instead of a passive participant."

Sison and her collaborators may have ruffled the feathers of some people along the way, but to her the bigger sin is to allow the Filipina to remain ignorant about her body and to deprive her of the necessary information she may need to make wise "life choices."

Such an outlook may seem a bit selfish to some, but it makes perfect sense to Sison. Only after you attend to yourself, she says, can you start giving back more of yourself to others. Enter Marie Claire, the magazine for the "woman of substance with an eye for style."

When Summit Media won the rights to publish Marie Claire locally, Sison, despite her track record in the company, had to apply for the top post like everybody else. The French guys wouldn't have it any other way.

Apart from providing them with a complete lineup for two issues, Sison wrote a position paper on how and where she intends to take Marie Claire. It didn't hurt that the "applicant" speaks French.

Call it (again!) coincidence, but all those hours the Francophile had spent taking up French lessons at Alliance Française didn't end up in vain. The magazine's French owners were impressed. But "my French is far from flawless," says Sison. But it was enough to convince them to give her the job.

Indeed, success happens when preparation meets opportunity. And nowhere is this more evident than in Myrza Sison's experience. As her way of returning the favor, she continues to open up a lot of minds by introducing the joys of reading to countless women.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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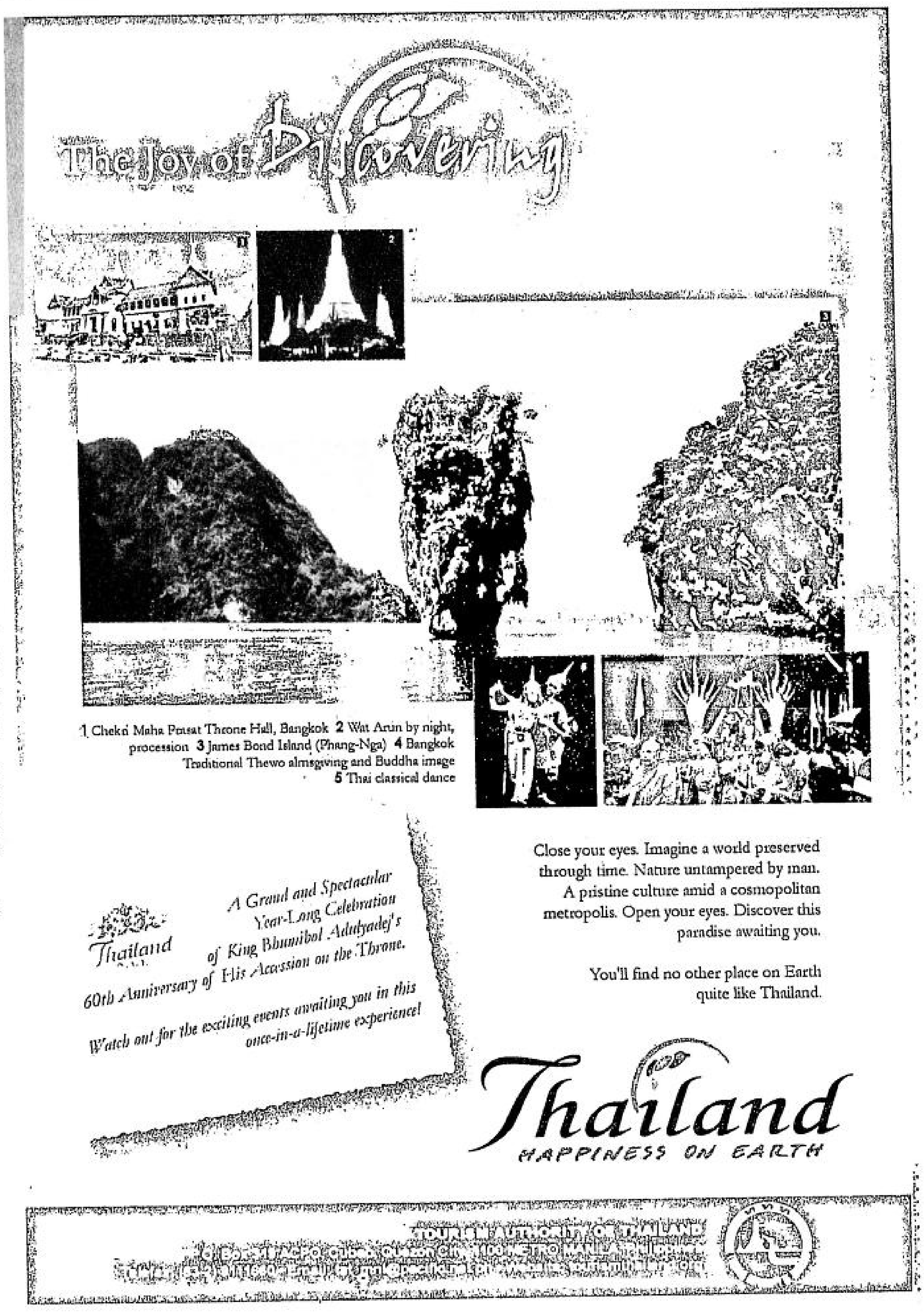
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 5985 series of 2005



1 Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall, Bangkok 2 Wat Arun by night, procession 3 James Bond Island (Phang-Nga) 4 Bangkok Traditional Thewo almsgiving and Buddha image 5 Thai classical dance

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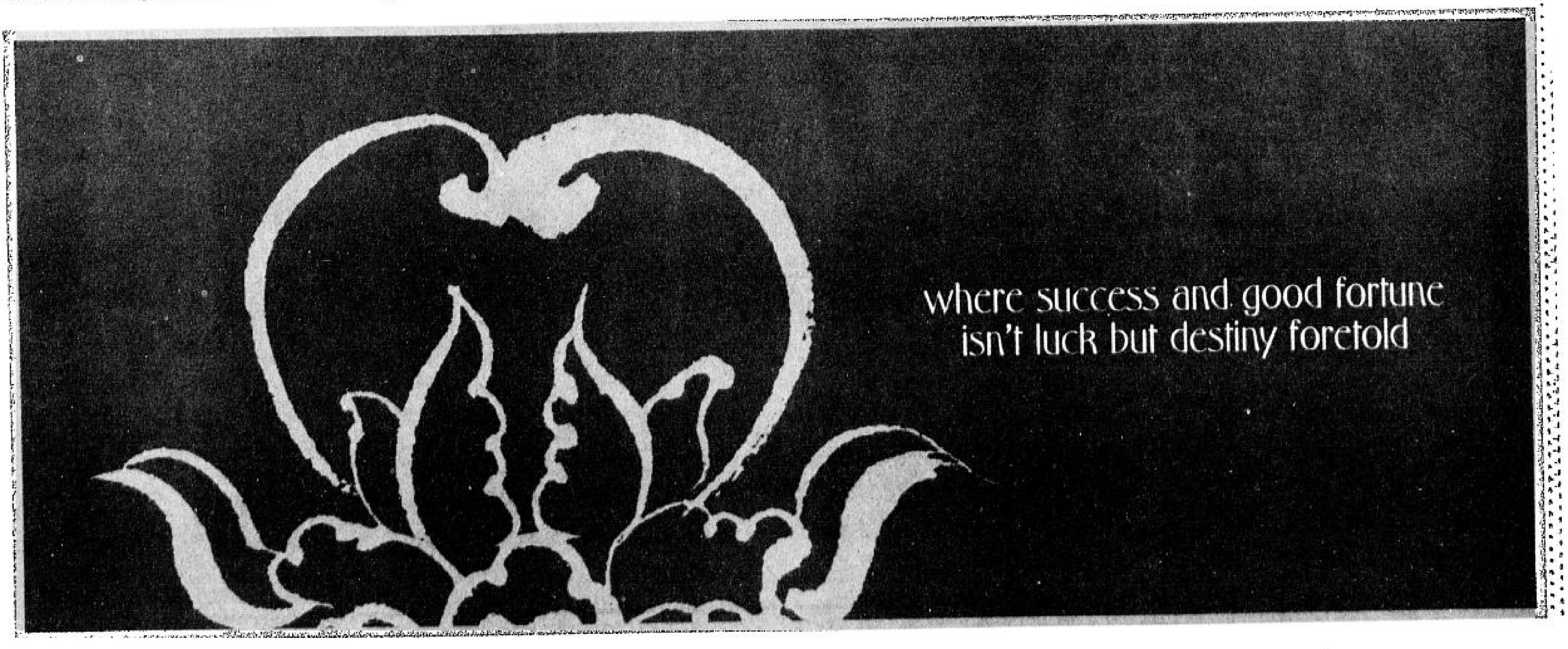

where success and good fortune isn't luck but destiny foretold

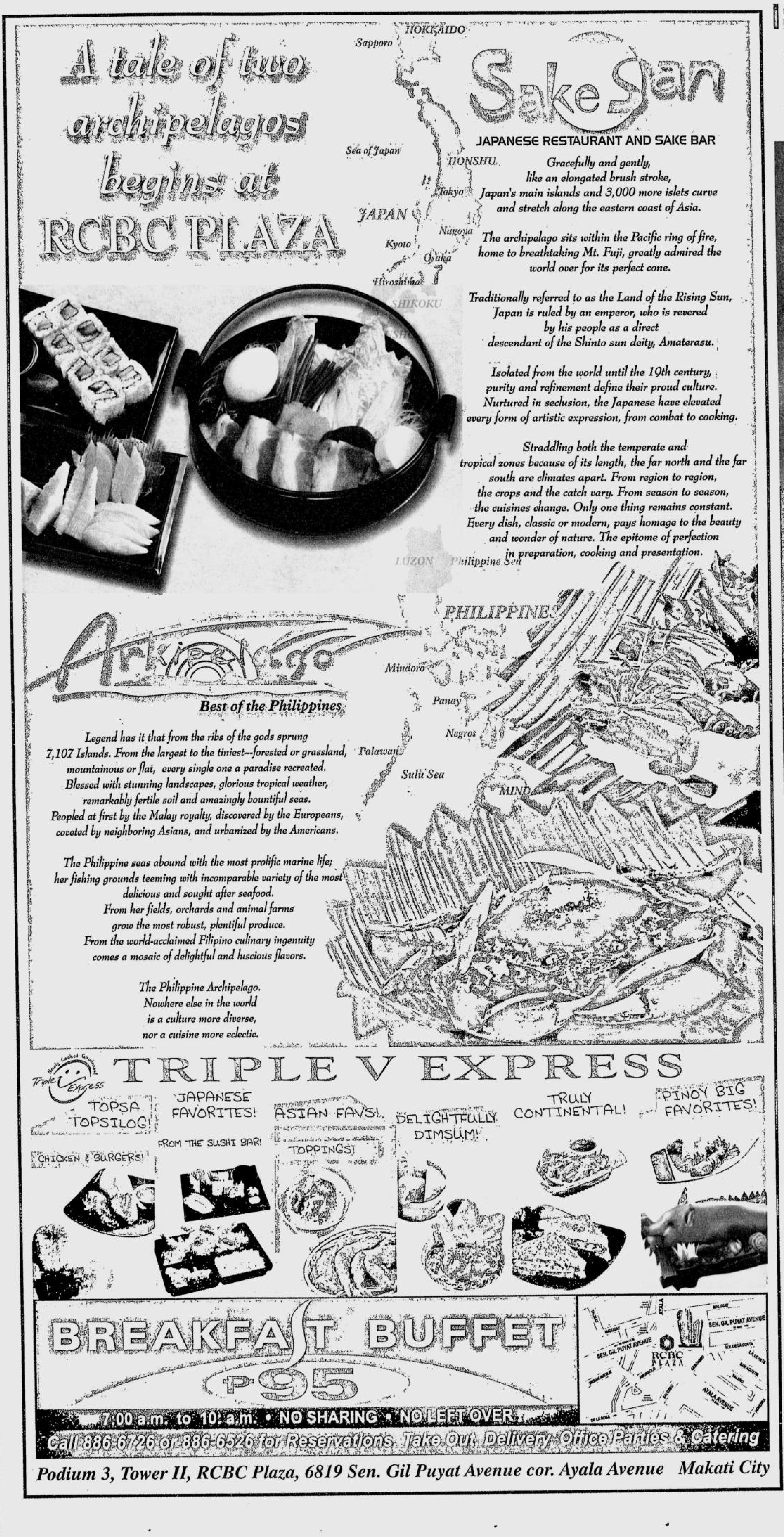
“Coming of age is . . .”

Compiled by Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

From page E3

“...doing what you feel like doing, unconventional as it may seem, without worrying about what people will think about it. So, in music, it's doing what I feel like doing without worrying about its commercial value.”

—Louie Ocampo, composer



A tale of two archipelagos begins at RCBC PLAZA

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*Gracefully and gently,
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Japan's main islands and 3,000 more islets curve
and stretch along the eastern coast of Asia.*

*The archipelago sits within the Pacific ring of fire,
home to breathtaking Mt. Fuji, greatly admired the
world over for its perfect cone.*

*Traditionally referred to as the Land of the Rising Sun,
Japan is ruled by an emperor, who is revered
by his people as a direct
descendant of the Shinto sun deity, Amaterasu.*

*Isolated from the world until the 19th century,
purity and refinement define their proud culture.
Nurtured in seclusion, the Japanese have elevated
every form of artistic expression, from combat to cooking.*

*Straddling both the temperate and
tropical zones because of its length, the far north and the far
south are climates apart. From region to region,
the crops and the catch vary. From season to season,
the cuisines change. Only one thing remains constant.
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and wonder of nature. The epitome of perfection
in preparation, cooking and presentation.*

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7,107 Islands. From the largest to the tiniest--forested or grassland,
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remarkably fertile soil and amazingly bountiful seas.
Peopled at first by the Malay royalty, discovered by the Europeans,
coveted by neighboring Asians, and urbanized by the Americans.*

*The Philippine seas abound with the most prolific marine life;
her fishing grounds teeming with incomparable variety of the most
delicious and sought after seafood.
From her fields, orchards and animal farms
grow the most robust, plentiful produce.
From the world-acclaimed Filipino culinary ingenuity
comes a mosaic of delightful and luscious flavors.*

*The Philippine Archipelago.
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is a culture more diverse,
nor a cuisine more eclectic.*

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Ria Francisco-Prieto

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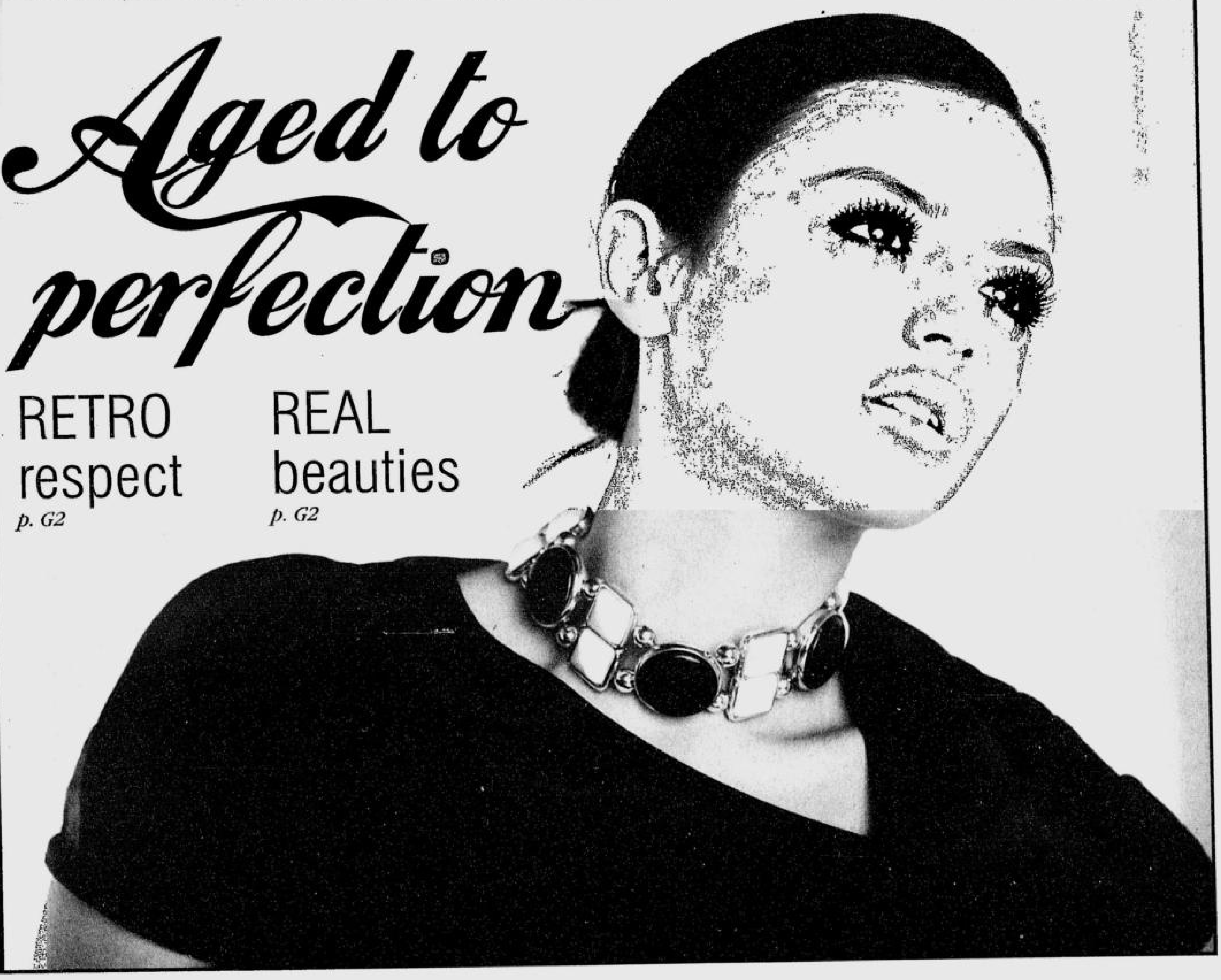

Aged to perfection

RETRO
respect
p. G2

REAL
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Decoding the decades

Look to the past for the latest looks in beauty

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, MAKE room for a full-on change. This year, we've seen fashion shift from an all-natural bohemian beauty to the luxe and refined looks that spell W-O-M-A-N. It's time for your makeup to follow suit.

The past decades have always been an inspiration—from the glamorous allure of the '40s to the sleek gamine look of '60s (the decade which spawned über-model Twiggy, who played muse to designers like John Galliano for Christian Dior and Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel this season). It's a grab bag of looks this season—classic updos, smoky eyes and cascading waves are all part of the package.

Here, we've recreated looks from the '40s, '60s and '80s (simply because it was such a fun decade of excess and chaos—something to brighten up the holidays).

Shu Uemura makeup artist Jigs Mayuga suggests a combination of either bare eyes and vibrant lips, or smoky eyes and neutral lips. For the '40s look, it was a combo of the former. If you want a glamorous lip color, be on the lookout for a wine-burgundy hue because it's the shade of red that flatters most skin tones. Skin should be powdered matte and eyes should be left bare save for black eyeliner and volumizing mascara. Finish off the look with Veronica Lake wavy tresses, which can be achieved with a curling iron, for a look that's formal but not too fussy.

The season's most popular look pays homage to the '60s, with a wide-eyed aesthetic that owes itself to heavy eyeliner and strong stacked lashes. Doing smoky eyes can be tricky, though; for those who aren't proficient with kohl, the best thing is to do your eyes first before putting on concealer. That way if you have a lot of the shadow falling underneath, you can clean that up easily. You need the under-eye area to look nice and clean because otherwise, shadow that has fallen too far below the eyes can make you look tired. Finish off the eyes with volumizing mascara or, for the more adventurous, a pair of fun ultra-long falsies can instantly open up the eyes. Keep the lips low-key (try dotting concealer on the lips and topping it off with gloss for perfectly nude lips). Because this is such a dramatic look, the hair should be pulled back in a chignon or a low ponytail. Forget boho curls; sleek hair with a side or middle part is better for this look because it allows all focus to be on the face.

For a makeup look inspired by the riotous '80s, Shu Uemura's Cindy Pineda focused on candy-bright colors. Do not be afraid of color: experiment with everything, from neutral hues to shimmering jewel tones like amethyst and aqua. Instead of the decade's signature blue eye shadow (which can look garish and aging if done with a heavy hand), Cindy merely lined the upper eyelids with a blue pencil, and gold for the lower inner rim of the eyes to brighten up the area. A pop of fuchsia gloss was swiped on the lips for a youthful shine. For the hair, think big. Create texture by putting some styling product in your hair and scrunching it up. Take the front section of the hair and pin it backwards for a little rock chic.

These looks are dramatic and the beauty regimen accompanying it does not leave much room for the five-minute makeup routine. So, for those of you in need of a quick beauty fix, here's a speedy alternative: simply line your eyes with black or brown kohl liner, swipe volumizing mascara on the lashes, dab concealer under the eyes and T-zone, and finish off with a wine-burgundy lipstick. But for the daring and the fashion-obliged, this is the right time to be decadent, from the colors you use to the time you take primping in front of the mirror.

Fabulous '40s

Epic '80s

Text and Styling Giselle Go of Marie Claire
Photography Paolo Pineda
Makeup Jigs Mayuga
and Cindy Pineda of Shu Uemura
Hair Vianney Guese (0915-7922674)
Model Georgina Wilson
All clothes from Ishq
Accessories from Irene's Closet

E-mail me at
rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

Present perfect

Celebrate your beauty no matter how old you are

By Ria Francisco-Prieto

beau•ty (byoo'te) n., pl.-ties. the quality present in a thing or person that gives intense pleasure or deep satisfaction to the mind, whether arising from sensory manifestation (as shape, color, sound, etc.), a meaningful design or pattern, or something else (as a personality in which high spiritual qualities are manifest)

I BELIEVE IT WAS MY MOM, Chic Francisco, who first introduced me to this word. When my sister and I had to go to a birthday party we had to get dressed to look beautiful. When we watched a ballet performance which she particularly enjoyed, she described it as beautiful. She would make us listen to a song that was beautiful. And growing up, she taught us—my sister and me—how to moisturize so we could stay beautiful.

I think my mom is one of the reasons I have become a beauty editor. Apart from the fact that I enjoy making things beautiful, finding what is beautiful also makes my mom happy. And as children, we all want to make our parents happy.

Since I have the privilege of picking people I find beautiful in their 20s, 30s and 40s, I've chosen women who not only are beautiful physically but also have depth and strength of character: Bianca Zobel, one of the best friends of my husband, Paolo, for her loyalty and simplicity; Mandy Santos for her energy and artistic talent; and Mia Borromeo for her calm disposition and spirituality.

Join me in discovering what beauty is to them.

What's your definition of beauty?

Bianca: For me, real beauty is a mixture of class, upbringing and presence which no makeup can cover. Makeup can definitely enhance a person's look, but nevertheless, the character of a person rises above it.

Mandy: Beauty is a reflection of one's character.

Mia: It's a combination of physical appearance and beauty from within—the beauty of one's character and the goodness of one's heart.

Who do you find beautiful?

Bianca: Physically, I think Catherine Zeta-Jones. Also, Grace Kelly for poise and Audrey Hepburn for class. Not only was she beautiful, but she used it to advantage to promote her causes. And these are the three classic beauties I know: my mom Maricris Zobel, *Tita* Susan Reyes and Sam Eduque.

Mandy: My baby Solenne, Claudia Bermudez, Ines Sastre, Christy Turlington.

Mia: Among the most beautiful personalities are Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Queen Rania of Jordan. Of my friends, there are so many beautiful women: Lizzie Zobel, Sam Eduque and Mai-Mai Cojuangco.

Beauty regimen:

Bianca: Nothing can replace sleep.

Mandy: I wash my face three times a day with Bodyshop Tea Tree bar, moisturize twice a day with Sjal moisturizer or Avon Anew (morning) and La Mer (evening).

Mia: I can't say I have a real regimen, but in everything, I believe in balance and moderation. I eat and drink everything, but I always have hot water after every meal. I try to walk most mornings and work out twice a week. I try to take care of my skin by using moisturizer and sunblock regularly. And very important for me is putting aside some quiet time for prayer and meditation everyday.

What makes a girl beautiful?

Bianca: When someone is unassuming about her looks like Cristina Garcia, who makes others feel comfortable because she is open to seeing beauty in others, not necessarily in the physical sense.

Mandy: Character.

Mia: So many different things make a girl beautiful. Apart from taking care of her physical appearance, there's her character—her generosity of spirit, her sincerity, her integrity, her kindness, her warmth. There's her intelligence—her creativity, her wit, her sense of humor. And then there's her style—the way she puts herself together and carries herself.

What's in your *kikay* kit?

Bianca: I don't have a *kikay* kit. I have baby cologne, lip balm and Dr. Hauschka eye serum in my bag.

Mandy: Don't have one!

Mia: Shiseido sunblock, Crème de la mer, Kielh's lip balm, Bobbi brown bronzing powder/blush, Shu lipgloss and eyeliner.

Best beauty advice given to you:

Bianca: Always remove your makeup.

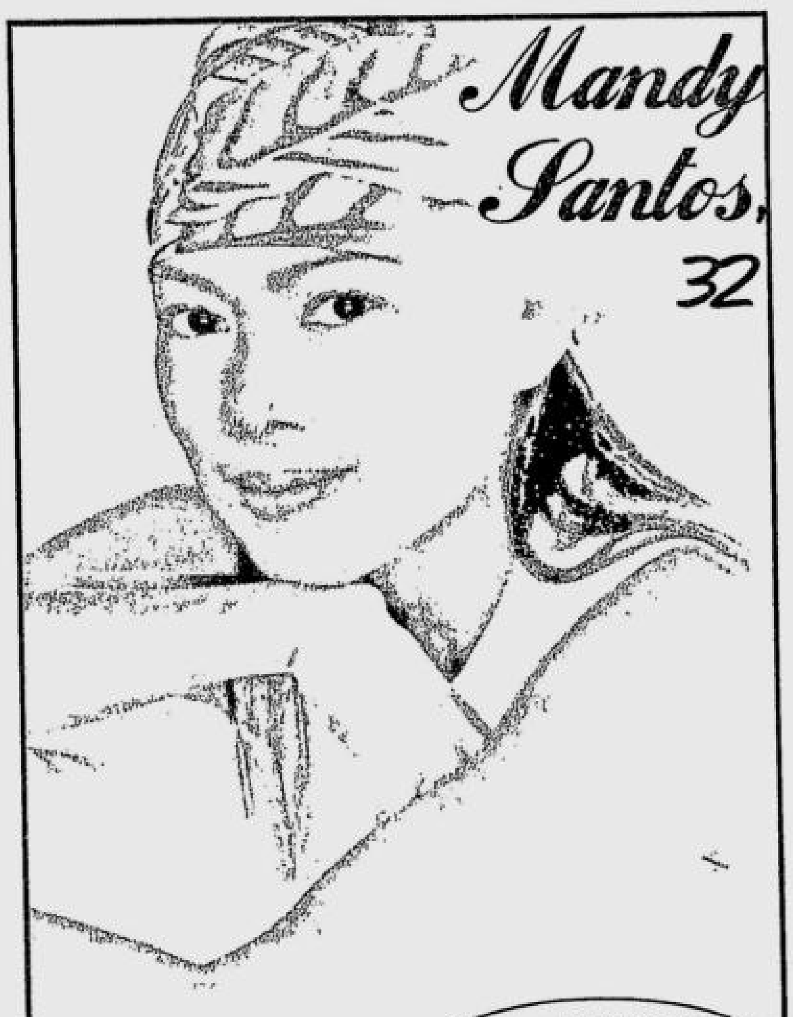
Mandy: Stay out of the sun, drink lots of water, always keep face clean and moisturized, and don't frown!

Mia: I think it's sun protection on a daily basis. In school, my friends and I used to love baking ourselves in the sun with Hawaiian Tropic and Lancaster dark tanning oil! But I realize now that using sunblock everyday is so im-

PRESENT/ G4

Bianca Zobel, 24

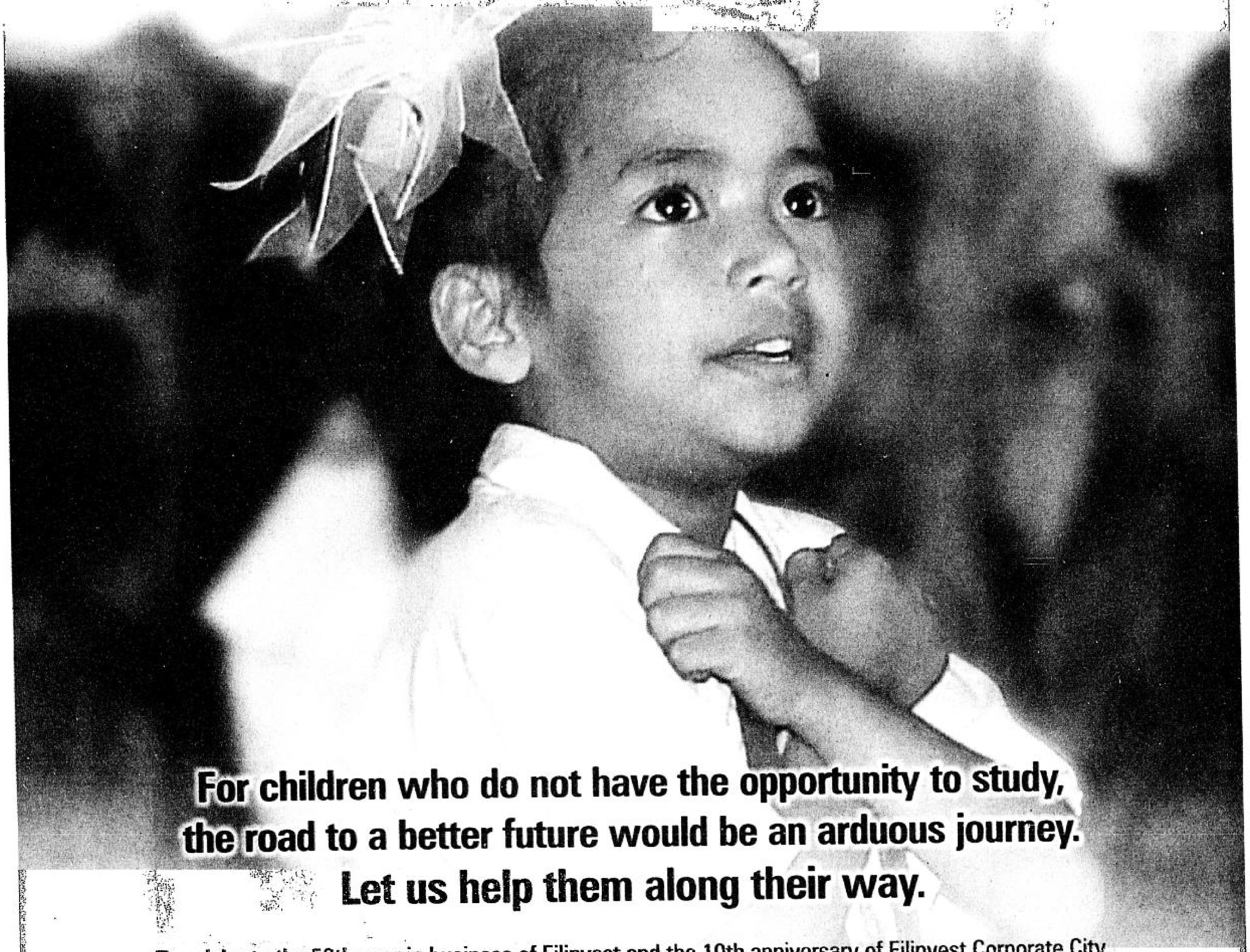
Mia Borromeo, 42



Mandy Santos, 32

Photography Raymond Isaac
Makeup Patrick Rosas
All photos from the book "Muse"

Filinvest run for a child



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Present ...

From page G2

portant for your skin to age well.

What makes you feel beautiful?

Bianca: The glow of happiness comes out when I'm comfortable in my surroundings. When I'm around people I love and when I am able to laugh at myself.

Mandy:A really good haircut. An Inno Sotto gown. Lots of sleep. Oh yeah, and great sex!

Mia: Feeling good about myself, which means not only taking care of myself physically but emotionally and spiritually as well... Being relaxed, content and at peace with myself and those around me.

What's your best asset?

Bianca: (When asked this question, Bianca just laughed, so a friend answered for her.) Physically her eyes and shapely figure. What really makes Bianca attractive is her sense of humor, wit, loyalty and ability to say the right thing at the right time.

Mandy: I think I shall turn over this question to my husband.

Mia: Fortunately, I have fast metabolism, and since I love to eat, it allows me to really enjoy good food without putting on much weight.

In terms of beauty, what is the best thing you did for yourself?

Bianca: I recently went to the San Benito Farm (6963175) for cleansing. I highly recommend their kidney cleansing treatment. They cover you with a powdered form of heated charcoal, then wrap you. After 30-40 minutes, your skin starts glowing and you feel lighter. They also hold office in Mandarin.

Mandy: This is a really tough question considering I've never been to a dermatologist my whole life! I guess it would be the consistent lifestyle choices I've made, such as sleeping early, working out regularly, being a vegetarian (trying) and being a nonalcoholic (trying).

Mia: The Chi Spa at the Mactan Shangri-La treated a group of us to a fantastic "spa journey" not too long ago. What a wonderful experience!

How important is beauty to you?

Bianca: Physically, everyone is going to age. So a positive outlook is most important. Also, don't take age as a bad thing, but as a time of experience, wisdom and opportunities.

Mandy: I'm a Libran, so aesthetics is definitely a priority. However, once it becomes time-consuming and a "put-on," it ceases to be so.

Mia: Inner beauty is the most important to me—when one has a beautiful character he or she radiates that.

What attracts men to women?

Bianca: Initially, every man has his own physical type. But in the end, he is looking for a friend. Someone he can be with and be comfortable with.

Mandy: Presence.

Mia: A whole bunch of different things. I know it's a cliché but beauty is in the eye of the beholder. You can never really explain the chemistry between a man and a woman—it just happens!

Filipinas are beautiful because...

Bianca: ...They take good care of themselves, and the humidity doesn't dry up their skin. Plus, we have a unique mix of races which makes us different from others.

Mandy: ...We smile through adversity. Filipinas, regardless of age and demographics, have the most beautiful smiles in the world!

Mia: ...They're feminine, well-groomed and full of life!

Do you believe in plastic surgery?

Bianca: I'm not against plastic surgery as a whole. But I am against reconstructive surgery for vanity. There are a lot of things I don't like in me, but these so-called imperfections create the character of a person.

Mandy: Is a boob job considered plastic surgery?

Mia: Personally, I'm afraid of going under the knife.

What's your standard procedure for an event?

Bianca: Two weeks before, I pick my dress and shoes. Two days before, I try to get some color because it brings out my eyes and I get a healthier glow. Then the day itself, I get my hair and makeup done. I prefer heavy eye makeup and dark thick mascara, which I balance off with just lip balm or a nude shade. I also like bronzers, plus I make sure I get a manicure and pedicure. I'm very simple when I dress up. I'm quite classic, and if my dress is colorful then I will not accessorize.

Mandy: I'm pretty much a wash-and-wear type of person, although I will try to squeeze in a workout before an event. I find that this gives me more energy to last the night.

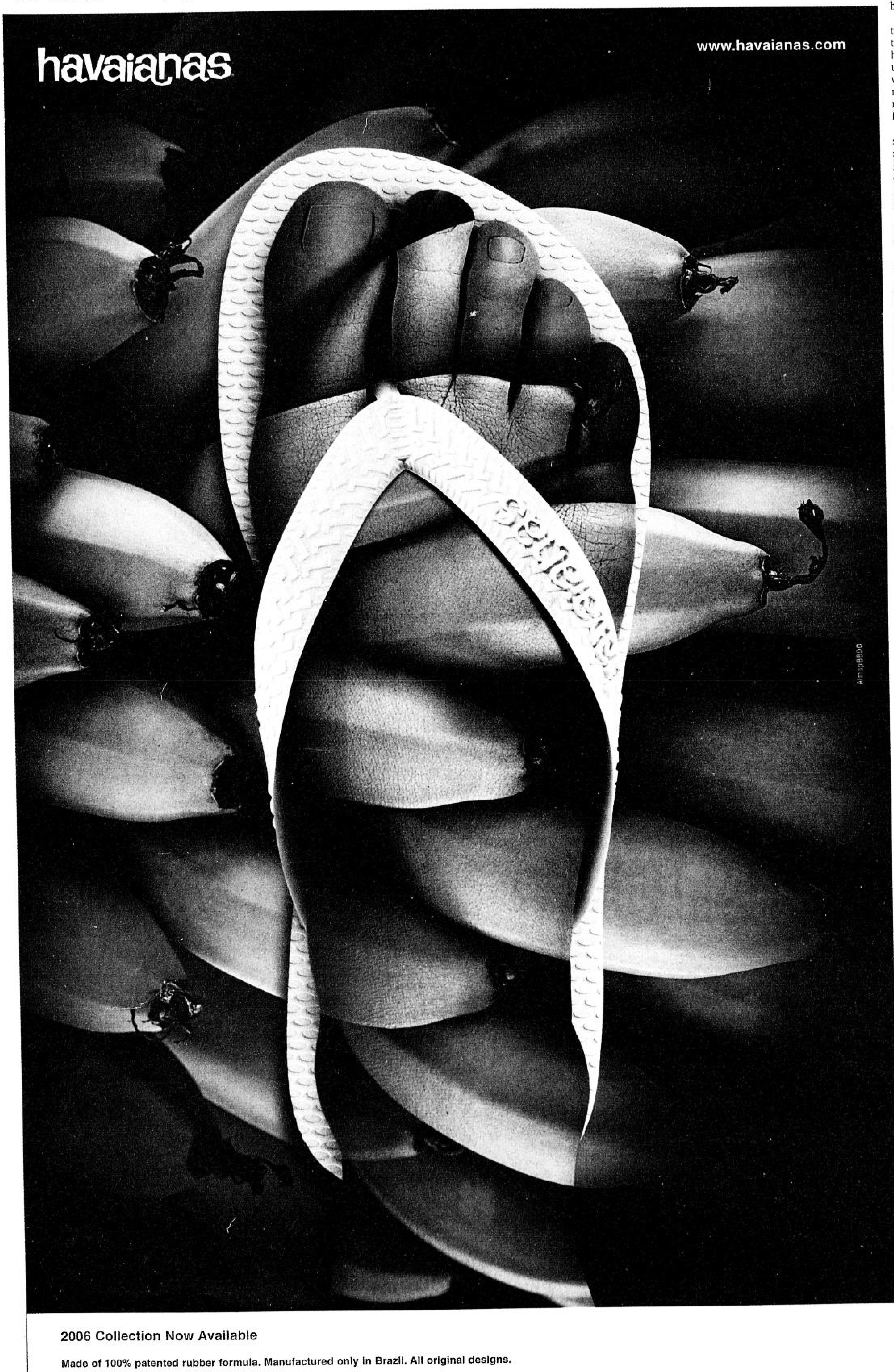
Mia: My schedule is quite hectic so I don't really have time for any elaborate procedures. And I'm not really a parlor person. Once in a while, I'll get a blow-dry, but most of the time I just gel my hair and tie it back, put on some light makeup, and I'm pretty much speedy Gonzalez when it comes to getting dressed.

Random beauty tips:

Bianca: Try medicated lip gel rather than lip balm in stick form because it goes through your lips and conditions them better. Mario Badescu SPF 30 is great!

Mandy: Prioritize a healthy lifestyle.

Mia: Moisturize your skin, use sunblock regularly, drink lots of hot water and no matter how tired you are, always cleanse your face before you sleep at night. And, of course, have a positive attitude. Count your blessings and make the most of what life brings you. Because when you are happy inside, it shows!



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